



# DEFEND DEFENDERS

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

**UN Human Rights Council – 46<sup>th</sup> regular session**  
**Item 2: Interactive Dialogue on the oral update by the**  
**Special Rapporteur on Eritrea**  
**Oral statement**

*Delivered by: Nicolas Agostini*

Madam President, Mr. Special Rapporteur,

We thank you for your update and wish you the best in your new role. Your mandate [remains](#) a vital mechanism to monitor and report on Eritrea's human rights situation.

This is the last year of Eritrea's membership in the Human Rights Council—and it is clear that being a member did not defeat international scrutiny.

We urge the Eritrean government to move beyond inconsistent, fickle communication streams with the UN human rights system and to invite the Special Rapporteur to visit the country to explore avenues for cooperation and reform.

We remain deeply concerned over ongoing human rights violations, including the incommunicado detention of journalists and unresolved cases of disappearances and detentions, including that of [Ciham](#) Ali Ahmed.

Madam President, Mr. Special Rapporteur,

Since November, there have been independent reports, including by the UN High Commissioner for [Refugees](#), of Eritrean military involvement in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. Infiltration of armed actors in refugee camps has led to violations of Eritrean refugees' rights, including killings, abductions, and forced return to Eritrea. Refugees must be protected. Elsewhere, as in Axum, reports of egregious violations by Eritrean soldiers have emerged. We urge independent, impartial inquiries into all these violations.

Dr. Mohamed: What is your analysis of Eritrea's involvement in Tigray, and possible violations of international law?

Thank you.