



DEFEND DEFENDERS

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

UN Human Rights Council – 55th regular session

Item 2: Enhanced interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in Eritrea

Oral statement

Delivered by: Hassan Shire

Mr. President, Mr. Special Rapporteur, dear experts and stakeholders,

This is an important debate. We welcome its enhanced format and encourage further high-level attention at both UN and African levels. We take note of Eritrea's submission of its second consolidated state report to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights ([ACHPR](#)), in 2023, and draw states' attention to the long list of recommendations the ACHPR addressed to Eritrea in 2018. It shows that the concerns over the country's rights record are widely shared.

[Eritrea](#) remains one of the most serious situations in Africa and in the world. Other human rights crises, from the Middle East to Asia to Europe, do not change this fact or diminish the suffering of the Eritrean people.

Once again, we urge the government to change course and take steps to engage with the international community. In line with its obligations as a member of this Council, the least it could do is cooperate with the Special Rapporteur. This could start with a meeting on the margins of this session and should continue with a country visit.

Mr. President,

Eritrea's [4th UPR](#) is upcoming. We urge states to participate in Eritrea's review, on 6 May 2024, and to support a resolution extending the Special Rapporteur's mandate at the Council's 56th session. All mechanisms and processes are necessary to address Eritrea's human rights crisis.

Thank you for your attention.