



Permanent Mission of Italy
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Interactive Dialogue with the SR on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation

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Delivered by Ambassador Vincenzo Grassi, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in Geneva

Mr. President,

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and thanks the Special Rapporteur for her report.

We remain gravely concerned by the systematic dismantling of civic space in Russia and its negative trend. As highlighted, dissent is being erased through censorship, politically motivated prosecutions, and the misuse of “foreign agents” and “undesirables” legislation. Public institutions have been turned into tools of repression and war.

Italy strongly condemns the widespread use of torture and ill-treatment, including against Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilian detainees, and is deeply troubled by reports of medical personnel participating in such practices. We also note with alarm the targeting of vulnerable groups who face aggravated discrimination.

We call on Russia to end repression and release all those arbitrarily detained, repeal repressive legislation, ensure accountability for perpetrators of torture, and grant independent monitors access to all places of detention.

Italy reiterates its full support for the mandate of the Special Rapporteur. Accountability, justice, and the unconditional release of Ukrainian civilian detainees, prisoners of war, deported children, and Russian political prisoners must remain central to any peace effort.

Madam Special Rapporteur, in light of the pervasive use of torture and repression, what avenues do you consider most effective to strengthen accountability and support victims?

I thank you.