

Human Rights Council – 41st session

General Debate on Item 4

3 July 2019

Australian Statement

Australia objects to the oppression of individuals and communities based on their religious adherence. Australia condemns violence and persecution based on religious belief in all circumstances.

Australia condemns the violent attacks by security services on civilian protesters in **Sudan**. We call for an agreed transfer of power to a civilian-led government.

Australia is alarmed by the deteriorating humanitarian and human rights situation in **Venezuela**. We continue to call for the return of democracy and rule of law in Venezuela as soon as possible.

Australia is concerned by reports of enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention and restrictions on freedom of movement of Uighurs and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang. We call upon **China** to allow the OHCHR independent access to monitor and report on the human rights situation in Xinjiang.

Australia remains disturbed by the grave human rights situation in the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**. We call on the DPRK to improve the living conditions of its people and recommit to global security through its complete, irreversible and verifiable denuclearisation.

Australia calls for all parties to adhere to de-escalation agreements in **Syria's** north-west and an immediate halt to attacks on medical facilities, schools and other civilian infrastructure. Australia remains concerned by reports of disappearances, arbitrary arrests and extrajudicial killings, including in areas under regime control.

Australia deplores the ongoing conflict in **Yemen** and condemns deliberate obstacles to humanitarian access to Yemen's civilian population. We urge all sides of the conflict to facilitate the delivery of food, fuel and medicines to all Yemenis.

Australia supports freedom of expression and the press. We deplore the killing of Jamal Khashoggi and welcome the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions into the egregious act.

285 words