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UNGA Third Committee
Item 73: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on
extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

Statement delivered on 25 October 2018

Australia thanks the Special Rapporteur for her report, *Saving lives is not a crime*.

We welcome the report's focus on the need to ensure counter-terrorism measures and not preventing the provision of life-saving humanitarian assistance to those in need. It is important we protect human rights as states strive to combat terrorism and its enablers.

We note the Special Rapporteur's reference, at paragraph 51, to Australia's counter terrorism laws, which expressly exempt humanitarian activities associated with terrorist organisations from criminal liability.

Australia's counter-terrorism laws have been drafted carefully to ensure they do not criminalise actions or organisations that do not contribute to terrorism. They are not intended to prevent the provision of humanitarian aid.

Australia's foreign incursions laws also contain express safeguards to protect humanitarian activities undertaken overseas in conflict zones where terrorist organisations may be in operation: rather they are the opposite

Australia remains concerned by all arbitrary deprivations of life and therefore supports the continuing mandate of the Special Rapporteur and her work.