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Statement of Ireland

57th session of the Human Rights Council

ID with the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

17th September 2024

Ireland aligns with the EU statement and thanks the Working Group for their update.

Ireland condemns in the strongest terms, the use of detention as a tool to intimidate and silence civil society actors, human rights defenders, journalists and media workers, political opponents, dissidents, and individuals exercising their civil and political rights and calls for an end to this practice. We also call for the immediate and unconditional release of all persons arbitrarily detained.

Ireland further condemns all acts of reprisals and intimidation against individuals whose cases have been raised by the Working Group, and those to seek to who cooperate with the UN, its representatives and its mechanisms.
Civil society actors and human rights defenders play a crucial role in our society and must be free to carry out their activities without fear of harassment, reprisal, detention or violence.

Ireland welcomes the Report of the Working Group and appreciates the focus given to the potential negative impact of mandatory minimum sentences. Ireland is concerned that such sentences can have a disproportionate and adverse effect on already vulnerable individuals. We agree that sentences should only be imposed following a transparent assessment of reasonableness, necessity and proportionality, in light of the circumstances of the offender and of the particular offence.

Chair, how can States best be encouraged to engage proactively with the Working Group and to fully implement the Working Groups Opinions?

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