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Statement of Ireland

57th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 4: Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the Russian Federation

23 September 2024

Ireland aligns with the EU statement and thanks the Special Rapporteur for her report.

Ireland regrets that since the Special Rapporteur's first report, the persecution and incarceration rate of human rights defenders, journalists and political figures in the Russian Federation has increased sharply, with worsening conditions, including solitary confinement, enforced disappearances and deaths in custody. Ireland also regrets the targeted persecution of LGBTIQ+ persons.

Those who speak out against the Putin regime continue to face persecution, harassment and intimidation. The targeting of anti-war critics and perceived dissenters has escalated, with an increased use of criminal prosecutions and imprisonment for those merely seeking to exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Ireland is also gravely concerned that the lawyers representing these people have faced attacks, including criminal prosecution and intimidation, for doing their work.

This report makes clear that that the situation in Russia has continued to deteriorate and that it must be understood against the backdrop of a State-sponsored system of human rights violations. It makes clear that these human rights abuses do not occur in isolation. The intensifying internal repression in Russia and its external aggression against Ukraine go hand in hand.

Special Rapporteur,

What can be done to support human rights defenders, anti-war critics and those who seek to defend them, when faced with State-sponsored suppression and persecution?

Thank you.