



Statement of Ireland

48th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

Monday 20 September

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU. We thank the Working Group for its report, and for continuing its vital work despite the challenging circumstances posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is essential that the detention, extradition and deportation of citizens and foreign nationals alike is in line with international law, and fully respects the individual's human rights.

Ireland is alarmed by the widespread targeting and arbitrary detention of civil society actors, journalists, and human rights defenders, as outlined in the report of the Working Group, and we deplore the additional gendered risks faced by women human rights defenders in the context of detention. That nearly one third of the Working Group's opinions in 2020 related to the arbitrary detention of human rights defenders is a shocking statistic. Human rights defenders play a crucial role in protecting and defending the most vulnerable and marginalised in our societies, and must be free to carry out their activities without fear of harassment, detention or violence.

Ireland strongly supports the Working Group's call on States to give full effect to the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. What further steps can be taken by the international community to ensure the protection of human rights defenders against arbitrary detention?

Thank you.

[207 words]