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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
60th Regular Session

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur
on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation
22 September 2025

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President,

Austria aligns with the EU statement and welcomes the report by the Special Rapporteur.

Since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, Russian authorities have intensified their use of criminal prosecution, long-term imprisonment, intimidation, torture and ill-treatment to silence opposition to the war against Ukraine – and have further escalated repression within the Russian Federation itself. These measures have had a particularly severe impact on vulnerable groups, especially women, LGBT persons, national and ethnic minorities, Indigenous Peoples, religious groups and migrants.

Austria is deeply concerned that the past year was marked by further consolidation and expansion of repressive tools, in particular the use of national security legislation to silence dissent and restrict civic space. We urge the Russian Federation to repeal restrictive legislation on "foreign agents" and "undesirable organizations", and to stop using the court system for political purposes to silence civil society and persecute persons expressing dissenting opinions.

Austria reiterates its call on the Russian Federation to respect, protect and fulfil human rights in compliance with its obligations under international human rights law, and to cooperate with special procedures and other international human rights mechanisms.

Madam Special Rapporteur,

In closing, let me assure you of our continued support. We call on all Council members to support the resolution extending your mandate.

I thank you.