



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and
to the other International Organizations
Geneva

38th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Geneva, 19 June 2018

Item 2 – General Debate on HC oral update

German Statement

Mr President,

Germany aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

Mr High Commissioner,

We would like to thank you for your update on the work of your Office. It is as always highly appreciated, as is your frank voice addressing time and again the many and varied instances of human rights violations in too many parts of the world. People all over the world depend on and count upon the fact that violations are (being) raised here at the Human Rights Council. In this context, we would like to underline our gratitude for the reports that you and your office have provided throughout your term in office. Equally, we appreciate and support your tireless efforts and those of your office to cooperate with numerous States willing to promote and protect human rights.

Germany condemns the ongoing violence in Nicaragua and calls on all parties to renounce violence immediately. Germany welcomes the decision to establish an Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts to support investigation of acts of violence in Nicaragua and calls for the constructive participation of all sides in the National Dialogue.

We are deeply concerned about ongoing threats to freedom of expression, online as well as offline. Journalists and bloggers, including of foreign media, are being intimidated, harassed, subjected to overt censorship, threat of prosecution on vague charges, imprisonment, including short term detention, or physical violence, i. a. in Cuba, Iran, Sudan, Turkmenistan, or Vietnam, to name some. It is

imperative for all of us to protect journalists and bloggers from harassment and violence and to respect, protect and promote freedom of expression.

In closing, Mr High Commissioner, allow me once again to express our sincere gratitude for your outstanding and excellent work and that of your Office as a strong and independent advocate of human rights. Germany fully supports the work of the OHCHR, and we are looking forward to continuing our cooperation with your office.

I thank you, Mr. President.