



Statement of Ireland

49th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

14 March 2022

Mr. President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks Special Rapporteur Fionnuala Ní Aoláin for her insightful report.

We are extremely disappointed by the continued and widespread failure to implement the recommendations of the 2010 Study on Global Practices in Relation to Secret Detention in the Context of Countering Terrorism. As noted in your report, the international community's failure to address these violations has enabled human rights violations to continue worldwide under the guise of counter-terrorism measures.

We urge all States to immediately cease practices of mass arbitrary detention, including secret detention and related acts of torture, in all contexts and particularly in relation to counter-terrorism. Not only do these violations undermine the rule of law they can also contribute to radicalisation and the growth of terrorism.

Ireland welcomes the work of regional courts in addressing secret detentions and acts of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment. However, we remain concerned by the lack of criminal accountability for systematic violations of international human rights law. Impunity for secret detention and related acts of torture has all but guaranteed their reoccurrence.

Special Rapporteur, we are particularly concerned by the gendered impact of counter-terrorism measures, particularly on boys. How can counter-terrorism measures more effectively address this disproportionate impact on boys?

Thank you.