

H.E. Mrs. Nazhat Shameem Khan
President of Human Rights Council
United Nations Office at Geneva
Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10

Via email: hrcpresidency@un.org

7 July 2021

Your Excellency,

We wish to call your attention to a matter of grave concern. As you know, in the current 47th session of the Council, there are no General Debates, with oral statements possible only for the first 10 NGO speakers registered in Interactive Dialogues and UPR debates, and only for the first four registered NGO speakers in Panels

UN Watch began its oral statement registration on 17 June at 2:00 pm, as soon as the online system opened, and completed promptly. We requested 31 different Interactive Dialogues (ID). Astoundingly, however, we only received one ID slot. By contrast, Human Rights Watch received three ID slots; International Services for Human Rights received five ID slots; Amnesty International received six ID slots; and the International Commission of Jurists received eight ID slots.

We have been given to understand that speaking slots are assigned automatically by a computer on a first-come-first-serve basis, *i.e.*, based on speed of registration and order of priority. Please confirm that our understanding is correct. If this is the case, particularly given the speed of our registration, we do not understand why certain NGOs appear to have been given disproportionately more speaking slots than others. We will appreciate your clarifications.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Emmanuelle Gunsbourg Kasavi
Geneva Advocacy Director

cc: Ambassador Lotte Knudsen, Mission of the European Union
Ambassador Leslie Norton, Mission of Canada
Ambassador Sally Mansfield, Mission of Australia
Chargé d'Affaires Benjamin Moeling, U.S. Mission