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Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 6 October 2026

63/22. Situation of human rights in the Russian Federation

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties and instruments,

Reaffirming that it is the primary responsibility of each State to respect, protect and fulfil human rights in accordance with its obligations under international human rights law,

Reaffirming also its strong commitment to the sovereignty and political independence of the Russian Federation within its internationally recognized borders,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 51/25 of 7 October 2022, 54/23 of 12 October 2023, 57/20 of 10 October 2024 and 60/21 of 7 October 2025 on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation,

Recalling also all relevant statements made by the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the treaty bodies concerning the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation, including those by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation,

Recalling further the alarming findings in the report of the Moscow Mechanism of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on the legal and administrative practices of the Russian Federation of 22 September 2022,¹ as well as in its reports of 4 May 2023² and 25 April 2024,³ and recalling the findings in the reports of the Moscow Mechanism of 25 September 2025⁴ and 9 July 2026,⁵

Gravely concerned at the continued significant deterioration of the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation, in particular at reports of the extrajudicial killing of government critics, severe restrictions on the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association, both online and offline, to silence dissent, anti-war expression and other peaceful activities vital for the functioning of a democratic society, and

¹ www.osce.org/odihr/526720.

² www.osce.org/odihr/542751.

³ www.osce.org/odihr/567367.

⁴ www.osce.org/odihr/598042.

⁵ www.osce.org/odihr/666398.



at the further erosion of political pluralism, including through measures preventing opposition political parties and candidates from participating in elections, resulting in an unabating systematic crackdown by the Russian authorities on civil society organizations and representatives, human rights defenders, particularly women human rights defenders, who face specific sexual and gender-based violence and threats, independent media outlets, journalists, media workers, Indigenous Peoples, persons in vulnerable situations, children and their families, persons belonging to minorities, lawyers, political opposition representatives, and other individuals exercising their human rights,

Expressing its deep concern at the reported mass arbitrary arrest, detention and harassment of the persons referred to in the previous paragraph, including persons peacefully protesting and speaking out against the deterioration of the rule of law in the Russian Federation and the war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, resulting in the widespread and systematic criminalization of peaceful dissent, and expressing deep concern also at the excessive use of force against these individuals, compounded by the absence of an independent judiciary and the denial of the right to a fair trial and the legal assistance of one's own choosing, including for persons deprived of their liberty,

Reiterating that the independence, impartiality and integrity of the judiciary, the judicial system and an independent legal profession are essential prerequisites for the protection and promotion of human rights, the rule of law, good governance and democracy, and for ensuring no discrimination in seeking justice, accountability and remedy, and should therefore be respected and upheld in all circumstances, and consequently expressing concern at the lack of judicial independence, the intensification of persecution of and pressure faced by legal professionals in the Russian Federation, and at the amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code expanding further the scope of trials in absentia and the increasing use of closed-door proceedings,

Recalling the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, stressing the confidentiality of lawyer-client communications, the independence of bar associations and the principle that lawyers should not be identified with their clients or their clients' causes, and expressing concern at the ongoing deterioration of legal protections and escalating pressures on lawyers, including the intimidation and harassment of, arbitrary disciplinary measures against, disbarment, criminal prosecution and arbitrary detention of lawyers in connection with the exercise of their professional duties, including the defence of those arbitrarily arrested and sentenced on politically motivated grounds,

Expressing concern at reports of the widespread and systematic use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment against detainees, including the participation of medical personnel in torture, as well as acts involving the denial of access to adequate medical care, their arbitrary placement in punitive solitary isolation cells or solitary confinement, restriction of their contact with the outside world, and the use of coercive psychiatry as a tool of repression, putting detainees, including more than 2,000 political prisoners, at grave risk,

Expressing concern also at the unwillingness of the authorities to investigate allegations of enforced disappearance, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including of sexual and gender-based violence against persons in detention; at the situation of individuals, especially children, deported to the Russian Federation, as documented in reports of the Secretary-General;⁶ and at the persistent impunity for these acts, which is further compounded by the reduction in independent oversight following the withdrawal of the Russian Federation from the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

Reiterating grave concerns at the death of the opposition leader Alexei Navalny in detention, the failure of the Russian authorities to conduct an effective, independent and impartial investigation into the circumstances of his death, and the conviction on so-called extremism charges of three lawyers who had been defending Mr. Navalny, and noting with

⁶ A/77/895-S/2023/363, A/78/842-S/2024/384, A/79/878-S/2025/247 and A/80/723-S/2026/357.

deep concern statements indicating the existence of evidence that Mr. Navalny was poisoned with a lethal toxin and that deaths in custody continue within the Russian detention system,

Calling upon the Russian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release and effectively rehabilitate all those persons arbitrarily or unlawfully detained, arrested, charged or sentenced on politically motivated grounds or for exercising their human rights,

Expressing its concern at the mass forced shutdowns or designations of civil society organizations as “undesirable”, “foreign agents” or “extremist”, including Memorial, OVD-Info, the Moscow Helsinki Group, the Sakharov Centre, the SOVA Center for Information and Analysis, the Centre for Support of Indigenous Peoples of the North, the human rights organization Man and Law, Sphere Foundation and the independent election monitoring organization Golos, and the closure of the Gulag History Museum in Moscow,

Deeply concerned about the increasingly restrictive and punitive legislative measures aimed at the further suppression of peaceful civic activity and independent, pluralistic and dissenting views, in particular the deliberate, widespread and systematic arbitrary use, instrumentalization and continued expansion of national security and public safety legislation in the Russian Federation, including to criminalize peaceful civic activity and dissent, restricting freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, both online and offline, as well as the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association, and further imposing arbitrary restrictions, including through the misuse of the court system for political purposes, the designation of civil society organizations as “foreign agents” and “undesirables”, alongside the use of more serious “terrorist” and “extremist” classifications, also against groups of persons in vulnerable situations, Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and other regional and minority groups, and expressing grave concern in this regard that more than 150 children aged 14 to 17 were added to the federal list of “extremists” and “terrorists”,

Deploing the fact that the aforementioned designations by the Russian authorities of civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples, political movements and groups of persons in vulnerable situations, including groups of persons systematically persecuted and discriminated against by the State, have reportedly resulted in these persons suffering greater physical and verbal abuse, persecution, arbitrary detention, including in psychiatric facilities, enforced disappearance and torture, and other crimes committed against them with impunity,

Deeply concerned about measures taken by the Russian Federation specifically targeting journalists, media workers and media outlets, including those in exile, resulting in the forced shutdown of nearly all independent media outlets and bans on foreign media, particularly through legislation that can be used and misused to criminalize journalism on charges including but not limited to “extremism”, “terrorism”, “war censorship violations”, non-compliance with “foreign agent” requirements and involvement with “undesirable organizations”, as well as through legislative measures undermining the financial viability of independent media, censorship measures and cyber operations targeting media infrastructure aimed at suppressing independent journalism and media freedom,

Expressing deep concern at the limited access of all persons in the Russian Federation to independent online and offline information and communications infrastructure owing to expanding control and surveillance by the Russian authorities, the increase in censorship and disinformation, including through legislative and restrictive measures and the use of new technologies to restrict freedom of expression, including access to information, and freedom of association, both online and offline, including by blocking Internet sources and penalizing searches,

Expressing concern at the increasing politicization and militarization of schools,⁷ and at restrictions on academic freedom, including through the instrumentalization of school curricula and teaching⁸ and the distortion of historical memory⁹ which further hinder the

⁷ See CRC/C/RUS/CO/6-7.

⁸ See CRC/C/RUS/CO/6-7.

⁹ See A/HRC/60/59.

freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds and impede the full realization of the right to education,

Expressing concern also at the Russian authorities' expanding control of Internet infrastructure through mandatory technologies enabling State-directed traffic filtering and blocking, the adoption and application of legislation penalizing online searches for so-called "extremist" content and the promotion and advertising of virtual private networks, the exclusion of independent media from State-controlled or State-promoted digital platforms, and pressure on users to migrate towards State-backed digital platforms, as well as the increasing application of Internet shutdowns and the increasing use of mobile Internet shutdowns,

Alarmed that legislative measures are being used by the authorities against Russian civil society, human rights defenders and Indigenous Peoples to penalize and criminalize cooperation with international organizations, including as intimidation and reprisal for cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, and that the enforcement of such legislation is reportedly leading to self-censorship and dissuading civil society actors from publicly engaging with the United Nations and other organizations,

Condemning the widespread, systematic and institutionalized practice of transnational repression by the Russian Federation against persons exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms, such as political activists, real or perceived political opponents, journalists and other media workers, lawyers and human rights defenders, Indigenous Peoples and other persons in vulnerable situations often labelled "terrorists", "extremists" or "foreign agents", including through targeted violence and threats to life, surveillance, digital attacks, the targeting of their relatives, extraterritorial legislation and measures restricting or preventing access to property and to financial, administrative and consular services, and the abuse of international law-enforcement cooperation mechanisms, including the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and condemning also all acts of intimidation or reprisal, both online and offline, against individuals and groups who seek to cooperate, cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights,

Deploring the continuing and intensifying social, political and economic discrimination and violence against women and girls and individuals in vulnerable situations and the level of sexual and gender-based violence in the country, urging the Russian authorities to take effective measures to criminalize in national law all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and to prevent, investigate and ensure accountability for sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic and intimate partner violence, as well as, in particular in the North Caucasus region, enforced disappearance, gender-related killings, such as "honour" killings, forced marriage and the practice of female genital mutilation, and to take a survivor-centred approach to fighting sexual and gender-based violence and abuse, and expressing concern at the continued lack of access to justice and accessible support services for victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and abuse, particularly in rural and underserved regions,

Regretting that, despite the two postponements granted by the Human Rights Committee, the Russian Federation did not participate in the constructive dialogue with the Committee during its 136th session, and taking note of the Committee's concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of the Russian Federation,¹⁰ the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of the Russian Federation,¹¹ the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the combined twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth periodic reports of the Russian Federation,¹² and the concluding observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the seventh periodic report of the Russian Federation,¹³

¹⁰ CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8.

¹¹ CRC/C/RUS/CO/6-7.

¹² CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26.

¹³ E/C.12/RUS/CO/7.

Noting with concern the impact of the liquidity crisis affecting the United Nations on the sufficient resourcing of the mandate and mandated activities, including consultations with all stakeholders,

Recalling that the Russian Federation ceased to be a high contracting party to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention on Human Rights) on 16 September 2022, and that 7,035 applications directed against the Russian Federation are currently pending before the European Court of Human Rights, which remains competent to deal with cases concerning acts or omissions that took place before that date, and recalling also that the Russian Federation remains bound by the decisions taken by the European Court of Human Rights on the aforementioned pending cases,

1. *Strongly urges* the Russian authorities to comply with all of the State's obligations under international human rights law;

2. *Urges* the Russian authorities to uphold the fundamental freedoms of thought, conscience, religion or belief, opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association, and political participation, and a democratic election process, in particular by removing restrictions on diversity in ideas, criticism and dissent, as well as associated rights to liberty and security of person; to put an immediate end to the reported violations of the rights to a fair trial and freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, misuse of the judicial system, in particular the arbitrary use and instrumentalization of laws on "security of the State", including on "treason", or anti-terrorism and anti-extremism laws, to suppress the rights of journalists and other media workers, cultural figures, lawyers, researchers, historians, civil society and human rights defenders, and peaceful anti-war protesters, notably women and persons in vulnerable situations; and to release immediately and unconditionally all those arbitrarily detained or forcibly disappeared, and to ensure the safe return of deported individuals, especially children;

3. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation, focused on transnational repression;¹⁴

4. *Decides* to extend the mandate of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation as defined by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 54/23 for a period of one year, and requests the mandate holder to hold consultations with all partners and stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples and civil society inside and outside the Russian Federation, and to present a comprehensive report to the Council at its sixty-sixth session and to the General Assembly at its eighty-second session;

5. *Calls upon* the Russian authorities to establish full and non-selective engagement with all United Nations human rights mechanisms, including constructive communication and full cooperation with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, to allow the mandate holder free, full and unhindered access to visit the country and to meet freely with relevant stakeholders, including civil society and human rights defenders, as well as individuals in detention, including prisoners of war and civilians deported to the territory of the Russian Federation, and to provide the Special Rapporteur with the information necessary to properly fulfil the mandate, and also calls upon the Russian authorities to cooperate fully with all other special procedure mandate holders, the treaty bodies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as all stakeholders in the context of the universal periodic review, and to refrain from all forms of intimidation and reprisal against persons and associations for their cooperation with these bodies;

6. *Also calls upon* the Russian authorities to adopt and publish a time-bound action plan to implement the recommendations made by international and regional human rights mechanisms, including the treaty bodies, and by the Special Rapporteur, and the recommendations accepted by the Russian Federation during the third and fourth cycles of the universal periodic review, in meaningful consultation with civil society and victims;

¹⁴ A/HRC/63/60.

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the assistance and adequate human, technical and financial resources necessary to enable the effective fulfilment of the mandate.

*42nd meeting
6 October 2026*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 21 to 5, with 21 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Czechia, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Gambia, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Marshall Islands, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Against:

Burundi, China, Cuba, Ethiopia, Viet Nam

Abstaining:

Angola, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Malawi, Mauritius, Mexico, Pakistan, Qatar, South Africa, Thailand]
