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ORAL STATEMENT  
Item 10 Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's oral  
report on Ukraine

UN Human Rights Council  
Fortieth session  
25 February – 22 March 2019

Mr. President, Amnesty International is concerned by the rise of hate crimes in Ukraine targeting human rights defenders, political activists, journalists and ethnic minorities, and the impunity enjoyed by those who commit them. We congratulate the authorities for their effective protection of the women's rights events on March 8th. Yet similar events have been violently disrupted by groups advocating hatred, discrimination and violence, often in full sight of police officers. We insist on effective investigations into past attacks, and prosecution of all those responsible in fair trials.

We urge the Ukrainian authorities to guarantee the right to freedom of expression and protect the media, in light of numerous reports of assault, unlawful surveillance, politically-motivated prosecutions and other forms of pressure on journalists.

We note consistent delays in investigations into conflict-related abuses in eastern Ukraine. We note recent progress in the investigation into alleged cases of enforced disappearance and torture by members of the Security Service. Yet years after this practice was first documented, the investigation still has not been brought to conclusion, attempts were made to close it, and no perpetrators have been identified let alone brought to account. We welcome legislative changes which mandate the

relevant investigations be transferred to the newly established State Bureau of Investigations; yet we urge that this transfer be implemented in a manner that does not cause any further delay.

Notwithstanding our concerns about the human rights situation in Ukraine, we welcome the authorities continued willingness to engage with and provide access to OHCHR. In contrast, we condemn the continued refusal by the Russian authorities, as the occupying power, to allow OHCHR access to Crimea [and enable it to more fully examine and report on the human rights situation there].

The human rights situation in Crimea continues to worsen drastically. Politically-motivated prosecution and imprisonment of human rights defenders is commonplace. Any form of dissident is being eradicated, as are the memories of it. For example, the Russian authorities have requested that YouTube removes videos about the jailed Crimean Tatar activist Emir-Usein Kuku. National and international actors should refuse to facilitate the Russian government's censorship, and the crackdown on human rights in Crimea must stop.