



**Joint Oral Statement: 40th session of the Human Rights Council
Item 2: Interactive dialogue on the OHCHR report on Sri Lanka**

20 March 2019
Speaker: Ameer Faaiz

Thank you, Mr. President.

I was here with you, a year ago, as violent mobs led by Buddhist monks attacked, burnt and looted Mosques, homes and businesses of the Muslim community in our country, Sri Lanka.

This council expressed its grave concern, but no one has been held to account to date.

Again and again, Sri Lanka has failed to address institutionalised and politically motivated violence.

Ten years on from the end of a civil war marked by allegations of grave violations of human rights including war crimes and crimes against humanity, we are still waiting for reconciliation and justice.

Our Government committed itself, on behalf of its people, to reform and accountability here in this Council in Resolution 30/1. Four years on we are still waiting.

An air of freedom has been infused and there has been some progress on the commitments undertaken. However, the majority still remains only on paper, delayed by a demonstrated lack of political will.

Human rights violations continue to take place, including torture, sexual and gender-based violence.

Our criminal justice system has failed to address emblematic cases of human rights violations.

Our national leaders deny the need for accountability and reject establishment of a special court with international judges.

In the circumstances, it is essential that this Council:

- Renews the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to monitor and report on the implementation of Resolution 30/1, at least every six months;

- Requests the Government of Sri Lanka to present a comprehensive action-plan with clear time-lines for implementing Resolution 30/1 and the recommendations made by the Consultation Task Force;
- Urges the Government of Sri Lanka to invite the High Commissioner to establish a country office to monitor human rights and support the implementation of Resolution 30/1;
- Calls on all Member States to cooperate with Sri Lankan civil society in our efforts to protect human rights and promote transitional justice;
- Calls on Member States to investigate and prosecute those accused of war crimes and other international crimes, as recommended by the High Commissioner.

I thank you.