

**Joint Oral Statement by the World Organization Against Torture and Human Rights
Solidarity on the Consideration of the UPR of Libya**

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Madam President,

Human Rights Solidarity (HRS) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) welcome the positive engagement of the Libyan delegation in the UPR process, and the State's adoption of many of the recommendations, particularly its commitment to ratifying OPCAT and other international treaties which until now Libya has not been a state party to.

While we welcome positive developments made since the regime change in October 2011, in particular with regards to increased freedom of assembly, freedom of the press, and the abolition of special tribunals and extra judicial courts, and express our hope that these steps will be followed through to reflect a long-term dedication to respecting and protecting all human rights.

It is of the utmost importance at this juncture and as part of the transitional process for the government to take decisive measures to counteract the decades of systematic and gross human rights violations, in order to overcome a legacy of abuses and prevent repetition.

We regret the State's failure so far to address systematic acts of torture and the massacre of the prison of Abu Saleem. Up to now the Libyan government has not appointed an independent special Commission to investigate the massacre, which HRS and OMCT have been advocating since December 2008.

We also express our deep concern at the rising tensions and hostilities between villages and towns, which continue almost five months after the end of the conflict, and which have resulted in the displacement of whole communities, one example being the citizens of Tawergha.

Finally, we are gravely concerned by the continued perpetration of extrajudicial killings, torture and arbitrary detentions, some of which amount to war crimes, as concluded by the International Commission of Inquiry on Libya in its recent report (A/HRC/19/68).

It is vital that these previously State-sanctioned acts are addressed by the new regime, and that it take all measures to implement the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry, and continue its engagement with the Commission and the international community at large in addressing all violations, including those committed by non-State actors.

I thank you.