



**60th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Item 5**

Interactive dialogue on the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights
Benelux Statement on Reprisals

24 September 2025

President,

I deliver this statement on behalf of Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

With their expertise and understanding of different contexts, Human rights defenders inform our multilateral system every day and we continue to stand up for those who are silenced:

- 1. Chow Hang-Tung from Hong Kong is arbitrarily detained for exercising her right to freedom of expression. We call for her immediate release.**
- 2. Staff of the Human Rights Center Viasna, face arbitrary arrest in Belarus. We call for their access to health care, their charges to be dropped and their release.**
- 3. Claudia González Orellana is arbitrarily detained in Guatemala for interacting with the International Commission against Impunity. We call for an independent legal process and her charges and house arrest to be dropped.**
- 4. Manouchehr Bakhtiyari from Iran, is arbitrarily detained for calling for justice for his son's death. We call for his lines of communication to be re-established and his release.**
- 5. The passport of Ibrahim Kadar Abdi from Djibouti, was confiscated after participating in this Council in 2018. We count on the authorities to return his passport without further delay.**
- 6. Pham Doan Trang, is arbitrarily detained for interacting with the UN on the human rights situation in Viet Nam. We were disappointed that Ms. Trang was not part of the national independence amnesties, in light of her deteriorating health we call for her release.**

Thank you.