

Intervention by Canada

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The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Thank you Mr. President.

Canada would like to thank Libya for its presentation.

Canada welcomes improvements made in Libya in its respect for human rights, specifically recent legislation which grants women married to foreign spouses the right to pass on their Libyan nationality to their children, as well as Libya's acknowledgment of the death of hundreds of Abu Salim prisoners in 1996. We welcome the first in-country release last December of a report on Libya by an international human rights NGO.

Notwithstanding these positive developments, Canada would encourage measures by the Government of Libya to improve human rights in key areas:

Canada recommends that Libya repeal laws which criminalize expression of the rights of freedom of expression, of association and of assembly and ensure individuals detained for the peaceful exercise of these rights be released.

Canada also recommends that Libya reinforce measures to ensure the full investigation of allegations of torture, disappearances and arbitrary detention, and that it fully prosecute and appropriately punish persons responsible.

Canada also recommends that Libya take the necessary steps to ensure that security forces are subject to legal oversight and operating in compliance with international human rights standards.

Canada further recommends that Libya accede to international refugee protection instruments, adopt national asylum legislation and appropriate administrative structures, and reach a formal agreement with the UNHCR to establish the agency's presence and operations in the country.

With a view to foster equality in law and practice, Canada also recommends the repealing of all discriminatory legislation with regard to marriage, divorce and inheritance.

Finally, Canada recommends that, consistent with the requirements of fair trial provided for in the Libyan constitutional instruments and relevant international conventions it signed and ratified, Libya abolish all special courts and related institutions including the State Security Court and Prosecution Office and abrogate all laws, provisions and powers related to the People's Court.

Thank you Mr. President.