

United Nations Human Rights Council, 43rd session, 6 March 2020

Item 3 General Debate

Oral statement by the Human Rights Law Centre

Delivered by Abdul Aziz Muhamat

Madam President,

Right now we are witnessing a horrifying situation for refugees in Greece.

I have just returned and I have seen the suffering of people who have been forced to flee their homes.

They have no safety. No water. No food. No shelter, electricity or medical treatment.

Atrocities continue to happen right now while political leaders are so quiet as if nothing happens at all.

I am speechless to see vulnerable people treated like numbers or cockroaches.

This is a global issue, Greece shouldn't be left alone to deal with this.

All countries should show compassion for people seeking safety. All countries must be part of the solution.

I was detained for six years by the Australian Government with hundreds of people – simply for seeking safety for ourselves.

Today hundreds of people continue to be detained.

People are sick. People have lost hope. People have died.

The Australian Government must not be allowed to detain people indefinitely.

Because now other countries are copying the human rights abuses of Australia.

Madam President, we urge the Council to hold the Australian Government accountable for this breach of human rights

Thank you.