

Oral Statement at 56<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Council Session  
Item 3: Interactive Dialogue on Liberty of Association

01/07/2024

Mr. President,

In Kenya, we express our concern that demonstrations against the proposed Finance Bill, spearheaded by young people, have been met with police brutality. The protests, which have been ongoing for the past two weeks, have resulted in at least 24 fatalities. Additionally, 32 people have been abducted and held incommunicado without being charged. Reports of medical personnel, lawyers and journalists being arrested, and cameras confiscated points to a lack of respect for the right to protest.

In Nicaragua, since 2018, The country experiences a near-total closure of civic space. Since then, the legal status of 3,680 organizations has been revoked, including more than 200 women's rights organizations, 39 human rights organizations, and 65 indigenous or autonomous groups. These closures have been carried out through the misuse of anti-terrorism and anti-money laundering laws approved in the same years to consolidate a repressive apparatus and unnecessarily restrict civil society activities and fundamental freedoms.

In Guatemala, the co-optation of the justice system is manifested, among other things, in the massive criminalization of human rights defenders and those who exercise their right to free association. This particularly affects indigenous peoples when they defend their rights to land, territory, water, and consultation, as well as those who mobilized for months last year to defend the rule of law.