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## Oral Statement

### Item 10: INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH INDEPENDENT EXPERT ON SOMALIA

UN Human Rights Council  
Fifty-seventh regular session  
9 September – 11 October 2024

Mr President,

We welcome the report of the Independent Expert. Civilians in Somalia continue to bear the brunt of the devastating conflict. All parties continue to commit serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) [recorded](#) 340 civilian casualties between January and May this year alone. Al-Shabaab remains the main perpetrator of the attacks but Somali security forces and allied international partners have also not spared civilians.

On 18 March 2024, two strikes by [Türkiye made drones](#) supporting Somali military operations killed 23 civilians and injured 17 more in Jaffey farms near Bagdad village in Somalia's Lower Shabelle region.

The Somali government has in the past [committed](#) to reforms that could improve the human rights situation in the country, including through National Development Plans. However, meaningful reforms are yet to take place to promote accountability or provide access to justice and redress to victims of human rights abuses.

Furthermore, freedom of expression remains severely restricted. The government is yet to operationalize a National Human Rights Commission that can register complaints and has the mandate to monitor and report on the human rights situation in the country.

Amnesty International believes that it is essential to continue the important mandate of the Independent Expert, whose assistance is critical for the improvement of the human rights situation in Somalia. As it prepares to join the UN Security Council next year, Somalia's cooperation with the mandate will be a key indicator of its commitment to human rights standards which are at the core of the UN's mandate.

Thank you, Mr President.