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ORAL STATEMENT
Item 6
Consideration of UPR reports: Dominican Republic

UN Human Rights Council
57th session
26 September – 1 October

Mr. President,

Amnesty International acknowledges the participation of the Dominican Republic in the UPR process, and the commitments expressed during the recent review. However, we remain deeply concerned about the human rights situation, particularly regarding the racist and violent treatment of Haitian people and Dominicans of Haitian descent in the enforcement of migration policies that result in their racialized exclusion by the authorities.

We are alarmed by the continuation of collective deportations, contrary to international and national law, which persist despite the severe humanitarian crisis in Haiti, and which have led to further human rights violations, including racial profiling, arbitrary detentions, sexual violence, and other cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. These collective deportations often involve pregnant women, children, and adolescents.

We remain concerned about the ongoing denial of the right to nationality of Dominicans of Haitian descent, exacerbated by Constitutional Court ruling 168-13. We urge the State to implement the key recommendations it has received to address and resolve this situation.

We regret that the State maintains an absolute ban on abortion, criminalizing and endangering the lives of women and girls, even when it is necessary for their survival, or in cases of rape, incest, or when the fetus is incompatible with life. We urge the State to repeal the provisions of the Penal Code that criminalize abortion.

We call on the State to fully implement the recommendations received, particularly those related to non-discrimination, respect for the human rights of Haitians on the move, sexual and reproductive rights, and the elimination of statelessness.

Thank you.