



**30<sup>th</sup> session of the  
Human Rights Council**

**Item 2**

**ID on High Commissioner's Update  
14 September 2015  
Delivered by Renate Bloem**

Thank you Mr. President,  
High Commissioner, CIVICUS welcomes your very rich update this morning and your passionate and unrelenting efforts to address the crumbling of freedom, equality and justice and the most deeply distressing human rights violations in so many corners of the world. We equally underline your repeated call for a comprehensive solution oriented debate on the catastrophic **migration** crisis currently shaking Europe and many parts of the world

As CIVICUS, we particular thank you for your unrelenting pledge and support for **Civil Society** and **HRDs**. We share your acute concern for the latest show trials in **Azerbaijan** where the sentencing of **Khadija Ismayilova** to 7.5 years and those of ailing **Leyla** and **Arif Yunus** to 8.5 and 7 years respectively are just the latest example of the systemic crackdown on independent voices in the country. We urge the Council to strongly react and call on the Azerbaijan Government to immediately release all those who have been deprived of their liberty simply for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association or peaceful assembly as well as for defending the rights of others.

Equally we are concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in **Sudan**, by the most recent abominable public flogging of women, by the by harsh political repression and continued impunity. There is increasing evidence that Sudanese security forces are committing war crimes in the conflict areas of Darfur, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states. We call on the Council to come up with a strong and responsive resolution on Sudan under agenda item 4.

In the mounting political crisis in **Burundi** we urge the Council to adopt a resolution which strongly condemns all political violence and human rights violations and requests you and your Office to publicly report on a regular basis on the situation in Burundi and to present a written report to the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the HRC, followed by an interactive dialogue and to stand ready to convene an urgent debate.

Finally, High Commissioner, in the case of **Sri Lanka**, -waiting with you eagerly for the report –we remind that the Council has indeed served as a forum where victims of human rights abuses could bring their stories; it has listened and given courage to the oppressed in all communities. Following the historic political transition, achieved peacefully through the ballot box, the Council must stay the course and serve as a springboard for action, accompanying all Sri Lankans, but particularly the victims of gross human rights violations, in their search for truth, justice and reconciliation. Thank you