Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada (LRWC), non-governmental organization in special consultative status

Thank you Mr President,

Lawyers Rights Watch Canada requests Council to consider our remarks on China's UPR.

Council should be gravely concerned about the case of democracy activist, Cao Shunli, who peacefully campaigned for civil society input into China's UPR process. In September, 2013, she was scheduled to fly to Geneva to attend civil society meetings in preparation for China's October 22nd UPR. She was arrested at Beijing Airport and "disappeared" until October 21st, when she was charged with "picking quarrels and provoking troubles." She was seriously ill in prison but was refused medical treatment. On February 20th, Cao Shunli was transferred to a Beijing hospital. She died on March 14th while on life support.

In the fall of 2013, Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting delivered a 1.5-million-signature petition to the High Commissioner for Human Rights seeking an end to and an investigation of China's "slaughter of prisoners of conscience for organ procurement." In December, the European Parliament condemned and demanded an immediate end to China's state-sanctioned organ harvesting from executed prisoners of conscience, mainly Falun Gong practitioners.

China prohibits lawyers from defending such practitioners, and Courts from accepting lawsuits on their behalf. Lawyers advocating for Falun Gong practitioners, including Gao Zhisheng, are intimidated, disbarred, imprisoned, and/or tortured.

The Outcome Report provides no meaningful response to documentation of China's attacks on human rights lawyers. In the face of systemic torture, killing for organ procurement, deprivation of independent legal representation and harassment of human rights defenders and lawyers, LRWC considers States' comments "welcoming" China's human rights progress as cruelly inappropriate. Thank you Mr President.

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4 Petition to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Calling for an Immediate End of Forced Organ Harvesting From Falun Gong Practitioners in China, DAFAIH, http://www.dafaih.org/petition-to-the-united-nations/