



27th session of the
Human Rights Council
Item5

**Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms
in the field of human rights**

Delivered by Renate Bloem

Thank you Mr. President

CIVICUS welcomes the Secretary General's grim report on reprisals, signaling once more the urgent need for Member States to enhance their coordinated response to these acts, which range from threats, harassment, smear campaigns, fines, travel bans, the forced closure of organizations, arbitrary arrests, prosecution and lengthy prison sentences to torture and death.

In this regard, we are deeply saddened to hear that the process of adopting resolution 24/24 at the current session of the UNGA was not possible in spite of all efforts by OHCHR's briefings on the subject, but we call for a speedy adoption as soon as possible.

Mr. President, we rely all the more on the importance of your role in promoting the prevention of reprisals through renewed engagements with member and observer states for sustained follow-up on cases to challenge impunity for these violations, particularly with Council member states.

In follow up to the SG's report on cases on Vietnam, CIVICUS received the following names:

1. Mr Nguyen Ho Nhat Thanh
2. Mr Pham Chi Dung
3. Mr Bui Tuan Lam
4. Ms Nguyen Thi Tram
5. Ms Nguyen Thi Kim Lien
6. Mr Dabg Van Ngoan
7. MsTruong Quynh Nhu and
8. Mt. Pham Le Vuong Cac

These activists were threatened, prevented from travel, had their passports confiscated or otherwise intimidated, only because they participated or had wished to participate in their government's UPR meetings here in February in Geneva.

Mr. President, more detailed information has been submitted to your Office.

We ask the Council to take all necessary steps to condemn these acts, including the already systematic reprisals faced by Sri Lankan human rights defenders.

Thank you Mr. President