



Oral Statement

Human Rights Council 54th Session

Agenda Item 2: General debate on the oral update by the High Commissioner

13 September 2023

Delivered by Wissam Al Saliby

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

High Commissioner Türk, the World Evangelical Alliance echoes your appeal to cultivate humanity's natural reflexes of empathy, justice and compassion.

The World Evangelical Alliance is gravely concerned over the ongoing blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh. We call on the government of Azerbaijan to immediately lift the blockade and to allow for unimpeded access to food, medicine and fuel.

We call on the government of India to hold accountable perpetrators of deadly violence and sexual violence in Manipur. Since May, more than 180 people have been killed, and tens of thousands remain displaced. We appeal for redress for victims and for an independent, non-partisan truth and reconciliation process to resolve the crisis.

In Pakistan, 26 churches and hundreds of houses belonging to the minority Christian community were burned down in August in the town of Jaranwala in Faisalabad. We call on the government of Pakistan to hold accountable the perpetrators of this violence and we welcome Pakistan's commitment during this debate to provide an update on this matter to the High Commissioner.

Finally, the World Evangelical Alliance and the Evangelical Churches Fellowship of Ethiopia call on the government of Ethiopia and all other actors in the country to pursue in good faith the transitional justice process in pursuit of the truth, restorative justice, reconciliation, and redress for victims.