



## **Oral Statement**

Human Rights Council 58<sup>th</sup> Session

Agenda Item 4: General debate on human rights situations that require the Council's attention

20 March 2025

Delivered by Markus Hofer

Mister President,

In **India**, violence against religious minorities is increasing, with over 840 recorded incidents targeting Christians with violence, intimidation, or harassment, in 2024.

In the state of Manipur, ethnic violence continues without a resolution or meaningful intervention from the Indian government. Since May 2023, over 250 lives have been lost, 60'000 families have been displaced, and at least 360 churches have been destroyed.

In eastern **DRC**, we are deeply concerned by the worsening security and humanitarian crisis, which risks spreading throughout the country and the region if nothing is done.

In **Syria**, hundreds of civilians have been massacred in attacks in the last few weeks, mostly from minority communities.

We are also deeply concerned by Israel's resumption of bombing and denial of access to humanitarian aid in **Gaza**, and by the situation of the remaining hostages held by Hamas.

In **Sudan** thousands of civilians have been killed and thousands more displaced.

In all these situations, civilians suffer the most. We believe in the sanctity of human life and the equal value and dignity of each human being, made in God's image.

We call on all States to end violence, to increase humanitarian aid, and guarantee humanitarian access to alleviate the suffering in these crises.

Thank you.