

Side event HRC 60: Torture index in Afghanistan

During the 60th Session of the UN Human Rights Council, ALO participated in a side event on torture and ill-treatment in Afghanistan, organized by the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT). The event examined the findings of the Torture Index, shedding light on the widespread and systematic use of torture under Taliban rule, including practices deployed in detention facilities, interrogation centers, and informal holding sites.

Representing ALO, Artemis Akbary spoke about the severe risks faced by LGBTIQ+ people under the Taliban's detention apparatus. He highlighted the conditions inside criminal prisons and facilities run by the Taliban General Directorate of Intelligence (GDI)—locations where much of the torture, physical abuse, and coercive interrogation takes place. Artemis emphasized that LGBTIQ+ detainees are at heightened risk of sexual violence, humiliation, and targeted brutality, often without any legal recourse or visibility within existing UN monitoring mechanisms.

The intervention underscored the urgent need for continued international scrutiny of Taliban detention practices, as well as the inclusion of LGBTIQ+ experiences in reporting, investigations, and accountability processes. Artemis reaffirmed ALO's commitment to documenting these abuses, supporting survivors, and advocating for stronger global responses to torture and gender-based violations in Afghanistan.