
CAP Freedom of Conscience

Coordination of Associations and Individuals for Freedom of Conscience



Activity Report HRC 63

63rd session of the
Human Rights Council

Palais des Nations, Geneva

7 September to 7 October 2026

Oral statements, written statements, side events and session coverage

INTRODUCTION

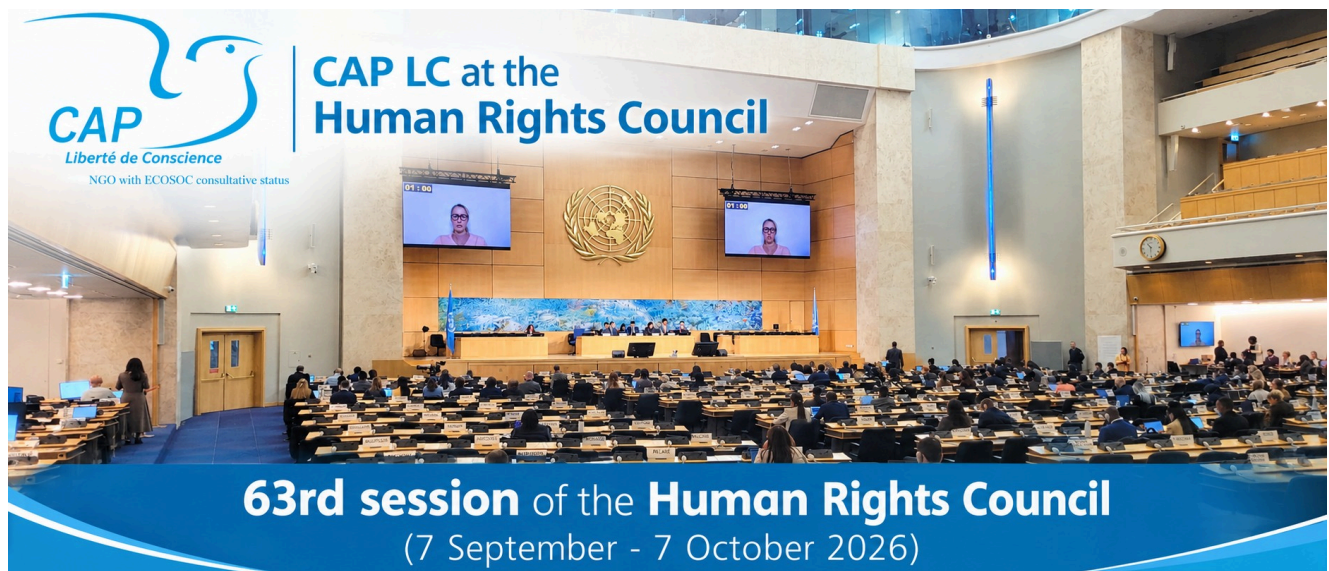
CAP LC at the Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council is the principal United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for promoting and protecting human rights worldwide. Created by the General Assembly in 2006, it brings together 47 States and provides a forum for reviewing country situations, thematic concerns and the implementation of international obligations.

Its 63rd regular session took place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 7 September to 7 October 2026. The programme included interactive dialogues, general debates, the adoption of Universal Periodic Review outcomes and consideration of reports from independent experts and investigative mechanisms.

CAP Freedom of Conscience took part through oral and written advocacy, exchanges with partner organisations and public analysis of the debates. Its work addressed freedom of religion or belief, equality before the law, arbitrary detention, procedural guarantees, the protection of refugees and civilian protection in Sudan.

This report presents those activities in four parts: oral statements, written statements, side events and articles published by CAP LC on the session and its areas of concern.



CAP Freedom of Conscience at the 63rd session of the Human Rights Council.

ORAL STATEMENTS

Equality, arbitrary detention and religious freedom

France and the promise of equality

On 1 October, under Item 9, Vice President Christine Mirre addressed structural racism in the French Antilles. She referred to the consequences of chlordecone, police accountability and systemic inequalities, and called on France to guarantee genuine equality in its overseas departments eighty years after departmentalisation.

A daughter's appeal for Idris Khattak

During the same debate, Talia Khan Khattak appealed for the release of her father, a Pashtun human rights defender in Pakistan. She recalled the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention's Opinion No. 62/2025, his reported medical condition and the call for his immediate release.

Denmark's Universal Periodic Review outcome

On 25 September, CAP LC welcomed Denmark's first National Action Plan Against Racism while urging broader protection for minorities. The statement called for an end to stigmatising classifications, a review of the Parallel Societies Act and stronger guarantees for freedom of religion or belief.



The Item 9 general debate at the Palais des Nations.



Adoption of Denmark's Universal Periodic Review outcome.

ORAL STATEMENTS

Accountability, civic space and detention

The networks sustaining Sudan's war

Under Item 4, CAP LC called for accountability across the full chain of external military, logistical and financial support. The statement addressed drone strikes on civilian locations and encouraged cooperation with the Fact Finding Mission and access for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

The misuse of trafficking legislation

CAP LC warned that expansive interpretations of psychological coercion in the OneTaste case could affect peaceful spiritual, therapeutic and religious communities. It called for constitutional limits, reliable evidence and legislation focused on genuine exploitation.

The detention of Chairman Lee Man Hee

On 18 September, under Item 3, CAP LC raised the pretrial detention of the 95 year old religious leader in the Republic of Korea. It requested alternatives to detention, an independent medical assessment and full respect for the presumption of innocence.

Civilian protection in El Obeid

Jointly with Human Rights Without Frontiers, CAP LC urged independent scrutiny of chemical weapons allegations, safe passage for civilians and humanitarian access. The statement also called for examination of external support that may contribute to violations.



The Item 3 general debate during HRC 63.



Thierry Valle of CAP Freedom of Conscience speaks about Chairman Lee on September 18 in Geneva

Thierry Valle speaks on the situation of Chairman Lee Man Hee.

WRITTEN STATEMENTS

Documenting restrictions and seeking remedies

Minorities and justice after authoritarianism

A joint statement examined how limitation periods can prevent consideration of evidence that emerges long after abuses. Using the Tai Ji Men case in Taiwan as an illustration, it called for effective reopening and redress mechanisms in cases involving severe human rights violations.

Procedural guarantees for Konstantin Rudnev

CAP LC and its partner raised concerns about jurisdictional safeguards in Argentina and the health risks associated with a return to prison. They called for strict application of criminal procedure, effective remedies and full consideration of medical needs.

The detention of Chairman Lee Man Hee

The statement linked the necessity of detention with due process and freedom of religion or belief. It urged the Republic of Korea to review continued detention in light of age, health and the nonviolent nature of the allegations.

Refugees from The Church of Almighty God

CAP LC called on democratic States to provide protection against return to China. It stressed that departure with valid documents cannot exclude persecution and that asylum assessments must consider surveillance, pressure and the risk of torture.

Forced labour law and religious communities

A joint statement on the United States urged legislative clarification so that voluntary religious practice and communal service are not treated as forced labour, while preserving effective action against genuine trafficking and exploitation.

Sudan: civilians and external support

CAP LC requested independent investigation of chemical weapons allegations, immediate civilian protection in El Obeid and scrutiny of military, logistical and financial support that could contribute to serious violations.



Written statements submitted for the 63rd session of the Human Rights Council.

SIDE EVENT

Freedom of religion or belief in Estonia

On 30 September, CAP LC participated in a side event at the Palais des Nations devoted to religious autonomy and the protection of religious minorities in Estonia.

The event was organised by Public Advocacy and co organised by Justice pour Tous Internationale. Speakers examined the Estonian Christian Orthodox Church, the Pühtitsa Convent and the continued exclusion of Metropolitan Evgenii following a residence permit decision taken in 2024.

Thierry Valle emphasised that security measures must remain consistent with international law and that religious communities must be free to choose their leadership and canonical affiliation. He called for individual and independent review of restrictions affecting clergy and for concrete steps towards Metropolitan Evgenii's lawful return.

Following the event, Thierry Valle joined other participants in endorsing an open letter transmitted to the Estonian authorities on 2 October. The letter requested a fair reassessment and respect for religious autonomy.



Thierry Valle during the side event on Estonia.



Participants called for Metropolitan Evgenii's return.

SIDE EVENT

Sudan's war and besieged civilians

On 10 September, CAP Freedom of Conscience and Human Rights Without Frontiers convened a panel at the Geneva Press Club on chemical attack allegations and the denial of safe passage in Sudan.

Thierry Valle opened the discussion by drawing attention to the scale of civilian suffering and the need for concrete recommendations. Contributions addressed humanitarian access, drone warfare, religious minorities and daily life in Sudan, with a remote contribution from Port Sudan.

The panel called for an independent international investigation with the participation of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. It also urged scrutiny of arms transfers and external support, safe passage for civilians in El Obeid and El Fasher, and an end to the use of civilians as human shields.

The discussion fed directly into CAP LC's advocacy during the session, linking testimony from experts and partners with its oral and written interventions at the Human Rights Council.



The Sudan panel convened at the Geneva Press Club during HRC 63.

SESSION COVERAGE

CAP LC's reporting on HRC 63

Artificial intelligence and human rights

CAP LC examined Resolutions 63/13 and 63/15, adopted by consensus on 6 October. Its article highlighted algorithmic discrimination, meaningful human oversight, human rights due diligence and effective remedies, with particular attention to religious minorities.

Pakistan on both sides of the microphone

The review of the Item 9 debate contrasted Pakistan's statements on religious intolerance with civil society concerns about enforced disappearance, military trials and discrimination. It placed Talia Khan Khattak's appeal for her father at the centre of the report.

Denmark's review and freedom of belief

CAP LC analysed the adoption of Denmark's Universal Periodic Review outcome, including 174 accepted recommendations and 91 noted recommendations. The article focused on racism, religious belonging, freedom of expression and the test of implementation.

The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

This article presented the Working Group's annual report and its examination of transnational repression. It underlined three practical requests to States: answer communications, implement opinions and facilitate country visits.

Sudan's war by remote control

The final article reviewed the Fact Finding Mission's findings on drone warfare and external support networks. It argued that accountability must extend to those who finance, supply, maintain and facilitate attacks as well as to direct perpetrators.