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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement submitted by China Foundation for Human Rights Development, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status*

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[19 May 2026]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Excessive Use of Force in the Immigration Law Enforcement in the United States of America Severely Erode the International Consensus on Human Rights

Global migration governance currently stands at a critical crossroads. Regrettably, in certain nations that style themselves as beacons of human rights, the protection of migrants' rights has not evolved with the times. Instead, it faces severe systemic degradation and structural regression. This represents not only a blatant departure from the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant human rights conventions but also a profound challenge to the fundamental conscience and moral baseline of humanity.

Since the beginning of this year, the international community has closely monitored the excessive use of force repeatedly occurring during the United States of America immigration enforcement operations. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, along with several Special Rapporteurs, has repeatedly expressed grave concern over incidents where excessive force by the United States of America immigration authorities has resulted in casualties among innocent civilians. These tragedies are by no means isolated instances of law enforcement misconduct; rather, they are the inevitable consequence of the increasingly militarized and violent immigration policies of the country in question.

Considerable public discourse suggests that the power of the United States of America Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is expanding malignantly and without constraint. Immigration management, which ought to be an administrative function, has been imbued with a heavily paramilitary and violent character. Throughout this process, the unchecked expansion of law enforcement authority has transformed routine operations into “street roundups.” Migrant populations, regardless of their legal status, are preemptively labelled as “security threats,” thereby exposing them to disproportionate risks of violence. Concurrently, fundamental rule-of-law safeguards - such as procedural justice, judicial review, and accountability mechanisms - are systematically suspended, leaving victims in a dire predicament with no avenue for redress. When a nation's legal framework, including doctrines like “qualified immunity,” objectively shields law enforcement officers who use excessive force and makes it exceedingly difficult for victims to obtain due judicial relief, the rule of law ceases to exist, rendering human rights protections hollow.

This phenomenon of framing migrants as “threats” and resorting to violence reflects a deeply troubling ideological shift: the global resurgence, to varying degrees, of extreme conservatism. Extreme conservatism reduces complex economic and social challenges to mere security issues, scapegoats foreign migrants for domestic conflicts, and seeks political capital by stoking extreme nationalism and xenophobia. Driven by this ideology, a “structural hostility” toward migrants is permeating the institutional levels of certain countries. Migrants are no longer seen as ordinary individuals seeking a better life; instead, they are indiscriminately stigmatized as “invaders” and “social burdens.” This hostility manifests not only in draconian border controls and violent internal enforcement but also infiltrates all facets of social life - including education, healthcare, and employment - weaving an invisible web of systemic discrimination.

History and contemporary reality have repeatedly demonstrated that governing a society based on a friend-or-foe dichotomy fails to resolve any social crisis. Instead, it exacerbates social polarization and leads to a continuous deterioration of human rights. When a nation habitually manages internal contradictions through confrontation and suppression, the democracy and freedom it champions inevitably descend into hypocrisy and decay.

Even more alarming is the fact that the victims of this structural hostility and violent enforcement model, born of extreme conservatism, will not be confined to migrant communities. Historical precedent warns us that once the abuse of power against a specific group is normalized and legalized, it inevitably permeates other segments of society. Today, migrants face unprovoked interrogations and violence on the streets; tomorrow, these oppressive governance tactics may be deployed against broader vulnerable populations, such as the impoverished. Indeed, we are already witnessing this “blowback of violence” comprehensively eroding civil and political rights, while simultaneously undermining the realization of economic, social, and cultural rights.

When a society tolerates systemic abuses against its most vulnerable members, the rights of all are imperilled. The exclusionary and confrontational logic championed by extreme conservatism will ultimately erode its own social foundations, while simultaneously destabilizing the security, stability, and development of the international community. In the face of severe challenges in global migration governance, the international community must speak with a clear, unified voice to resolutely resist the erosion of the international human rights consensus by extreme conservatism. To this end, we propose the following initiatives:

First, we call upon the UN Human Rights Council and relevant special mechanisms to intensify their focus on systemic violence and racial discrimination within the immigration enforcement practices of developed nations. We urge the United States of America to confront its own shortcomings, dismantle domestic legal barriers that impede law enforcement accountability, and earnestly fulfil its international human rights obligations.

Second, we urge all nations to cease the over-securitization and politicization of migration issues when formulating and implementing immigration policies. We resolutely oppose the excessive use of force in immigration enforcement and call for the complete eradication of structural hostility toward migrants and other vulnerable groups.

Third, we encourage the international community to enhance the exchange of experiences and explore mechanisms for resolving social conflicts that prioritize dialogue, consultation, and prevention. In its extensive practice of social governance, China has consistently adhered to a people-centered approach, emphasizing the resolution of social contradictions and disputes through non-confrontational means. This includes standardizing the exercise of judicial power and refining institutional mechanisms whereby public security, procuratorial, adjudicatory, and judicial administrative organs each fulfil their respective functions while cooperating with and checking one another. We stand ready to share these governance experiences, which emphasize inclusiveness and consultation, with all parties.

Fourth, we support the United Nations and relevant international organizations in establishing systematic data collection and compilation platforms. These platforms should promptly record and analyze the latest developments in migration issues, thereby providing a robust, data-driven foundation for global migration governance.

The degree to which migrants' rights are protected serves as a crucial benchmark for measuring social progress. The true greatness of a civilized society lies in how it treats its most vulnerable members. We are committed to working alongside the international community to uphold genuine multilateralism, resist the regressive tide of extreme conservatism, and advance the construction of a more just, equitable, and inclusive global human rights governance system.
