

**59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**  
**Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants**

**20 June 2025**

*Delivered by Olivia Solari Yrigoyen*

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Mr. President,

Franciscans International and partner organizations welcome the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, which give visibility to the phenomenon of disappeared migrants, as well as the situation of migrants transiting the Darien region.

We are deeply alarmed by State policies and practices on migration that have increased the dehumanization and criminalization of migrants. This has resulted in the ever-increasing number of migrants who go missing and who face preventable deaths and disappearances<sup>1</sup>, particularly in the Mediterranean Sea and the crossings from Africa to Europe, but also along migratory routes worldwide. It has also manifested in immigration detention and removal procedures through confidential agreements with third countries, as well as the use of deportation flights that fail to respect procedural safeguards.

We commend the three-pronged approach of the Special Rapporteur in his report on missing migrants to prevent their disappearance; to carry out effective search operations and investigations; and to ensure access to justice, accountability, and redress for victims.

We also welcome the conclusions and recommendations from the visit to Colombia and Panama. They reflect the magnitude of migratory flows and the profound interrelationship between human mobility, the gaps in protection for those most vulnerable, the lack of safe channels that guarantee their integration, and the environments of violence in which they migrate, which increase their risk of disappearance. The Darien region is not only an extremely high-risk transit point for forced migrants on a continental route, but also a manifestation of the political, socio-environmental, economic, protection, and integration crises that the Americas region is experiencing.

We call on the Human Rights Council to ensure that:

1. Migration policies and cooperation frameworks on migration are based on international human rights law and prioritize protection
2. Civilian entities with human rights training -and not the military- carry out migration and border management.
3. States uphold their international obligations to prevent refoulement and ensure the rights and safety of all individuals seeking asylum within their borders.
4. States provide regular pathways for migrants to guarantee their access to documentation, including legal status and integration, with particular attention to vulnerable groups.

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<sup>1</sup>A/HRC/59/49, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants Gehad Madi, Phenomenon of migrants going missing or subjected to enforced disappearance-human rights analysis paragraph 2