



SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER
OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

***Human Rights Council – 62d Session –
Item 3.- Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur
on Leprosy (Hansen’s disease)***

***Statement by Mr Hervé Arot,
Main Representative of the Sovereign Order of Malta’s Leprosy (Hansen’s
disease) CIOMAL Foundation***

Geneva, 19th June 2026

Mister President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

The CIOMAL Foundation and the Sovereign Order of Malta fully endorse the recommendations set forth by the Special Rapporteur, regarding the five pillars of transitional justice.

While current circumstances may not be conducive to the renewal of the mandate, we wish to place on record our appreciation for its work and our continued support for its objectives.

We would like to share two encouraging accounts regarding the duty to remember.

The former leprosy colony of Traeng in Cambodia, is nowadays seen as a living place of remembrance: it is a village inhabited by survivors, their children and a non affected population. A social worker of the CIOMAL Foundation is among one of these descendants.

The other former leprosy settlement of Ká-Hó on Coloane Island off Macau, is a memorial site: it recalls the 48 years (1963-2011) spent by Salesian Father Gaetano Nicosia in restoring the human dignity of the families and facilitating their social rehabilitation.

In order to ensure transitional justice, two actions are critical:

- supporting the organizations of persons affected by leprosy;
- caring for the education of children of survivors.

Thank you for your attention.