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ORAL STATEMENT

ITEM 2: General Debate on Update by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-eighth session
18 June - 6 July 2018

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the recent OHCHR report on the human rights situation in Kashmir, and shares the High Commissioner's grave concern over human rights violations on both sides of the Line of Control.

Amnesty International calls on the Council to take meaningful action to address the situation documented in the OHCHR report, particularly with regard to: the repeal by India of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1990; the need for independent, impartial and effective investigations into allegations of human rights violations by Indian security forces, including injuries and deaths caused by pellet-firing shotguns; and the amendment of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act.

We also urge the Council to address the misuse of anti-terror legislation by Pakistani authorities; and the use of legislation to limit rights to freedom of opinion and expression in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Mr. President,

We welcome the attention the High Commissioner paid to Hungary in his opening statement, and share his deep concern about recent legislative developments. The Hungarian government's smear campaign and crackdown on civil society continues with a draconian bill scheduled for Parliament's vote on 20 June. The bill criminalizes with prison time of up to one year a range of lawful activities, protected under EU and international human rights law, in support of asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants. The bill poses a serious threat to the right to seek asylum; the freedoms of association, expression and movement; and the principle of non-discrimination.

Thank you, Mr. President.