Madam President,

We remain alarmed by the deteriorating human rights situation in India including the ongoing crackdown on civic space and freedom of expression; the use of draconian laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) to target activists and peaceful protestors; and their ongoing arbitrary detention in overcrowded prisons as COVID-19 cases surge, which puts their health and lives at risk. Also, the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which the High Commissioner has described as “fundamentally discriminatory in nature,” which pushes minorities – particularly Muslims – towards detention and statelessness when combined with the National Register of Citizenship (NRC) process.

Amnesty International India has documented how, during the Delhi riots in February, the Delhi police participated in the violence, and used torture, and excessive force against protesters. Their actions have not been formally investigated. The reality of the human rights situation in India can no longer be ignored, and we urge states at this Council to hold India to its human rights obligations.

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rights obligations and commitments.

In Iran, authorities have extended their crackdown sparked by the protests of November 2019. In addition to the deliberate killing of hundreds of unarmed protesters and bystanders,\(^6\) the authorities have also relied on tools such as arbitrary detention and enforced disappearances. We have documented the widespread use of torture since last November, including beatings, floggings, electric shocks, stress positions, mock executions, waterboarding, sexual violence, forced administration of chemical substances, and deprivation of medical care.\(^7\) We are also witnessing abusive criminal proceedings and sentencing. The death penalty is being wielded as a weapon of political repression – against protesters, dissidents, and members of minority groups.\(^8\) We see not just impunity through denial; top officials have praised intelligence and security forces as heroes for their role in this crackdown. We reiterate our call for the establishment of an international investigation into these violations and urge states to work towards it as a matter of priority. We also remain deeply concerned about a judicial system that executes children and amputates fingers.\(^9\) In this context, we welcome today’s Joint Statement under Item 4 by a group of states.

In Egypt, the government has targeted women social media influencers and survivors, witnesses and activists speaking out against rape and other sexual violence. Several face criminal prosecutions on vague and discriminatory charges related to “morality” and “debauchery”.\(^10\) At the same time, human rights defenders, politicians, journalists and health care workers remain in arbitrary detention on the basis of unfounded “terrorism” related charges solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, including criticizing the government’s handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.\(^11\) The conditions of detention in Egypt’s overcrowded and unhygienic prisons are dire.\(^12\) Inadequate medical care to prisoners in custody has led to multiple deaths in custody this year alone. We urge the Council to give the situation in Egypt the systematic scrutiny that it deserves.


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the global coalition calling for urgent UN action on China. In addition to concerns raised in that statement, we are alarmed by the detention of 12 Hongkongers, including 1 child, for allegedly crossing the border between mainland China and Hong Kong in an unlawful manner being held incommunicado, without access to their family or family-appointed lawyers. China must respect the provisions of ICCPR which apply to Hong Kong.

We also support the joint statement delivered by OMCT on the Philippines.

Thank you.

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