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ORAL STATEMENT  
Item 4: General Debate

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL MUST ADDRESS HUMAN RIGHTS CRISES IN EGYPT, INDIA AND CHINA

UN Human Rights Council  
Forty-sixth session  
22 February – 23 March 2021

Madame President,

We have long expressed concern about the scale and gravity of human rights violations in the name of counterterrorism in Egypt. Our research over the past seven years has shown that security forces regularly subject real or perceived opponents and critics to enforced disappearance and torture. Two years ago this week, an entire family – mother, father, and one year old child – was seized by National Security Agency officers, and then disappeared.<sup>1</sup> Only last month Manar Adel Abu el-Naga, the mother, reappeared before the Supreme State Security Prosecution. Her son, now nearly three, was handed over to relatives, and is in urgent need of mental and physical rehabilitation; he has repeatedly said he wanted to go back to the room where he had been held captive. The child's father, Omar Abdelhamid Abu el-Naga is still missing. How can this happen? How can this be allowed to happen? Events like these throw into sharp relief the urgent need for the international community to act in a coordinated manner to address this crisis, including by this Council establishing a monitoring and reporting mechanism on Egypt. In this context, we welcome the statement by a group of states under Item 4 expressing concern about the human rights situation, and hope that it signals the beginning of a new era of Human Rights Council scrutiny of the situation in Egypt.

During India's current Human Rights Council membership term, authorities have dramatically increased their crackdown on civil society, including by using laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) to target human rights defenders, activists, peaceful protestors and civil society organisations. Amnesty International India has been among those targeted for human rights work: the organisation was forced to shut down operations in September 2020 following the freezing of its bank accounts and former staff members continue to be subjected to intimidation and harassment. The authorities have targeted minorities – particularly Muslims – and have responded to peaceful

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<sup>1</sup> Amnesty International, *Egypt: End and redress shocking crimes against toddler and family forcibly disappeared for 23 months* 4 March 2021, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/03/egypt-end-and-redress-shocking-crimes-against-toddler-and-family-forcibly-disappeared-for-23-months/>

protesters with appalling brutality – including in the context of the Delhi Riots<sup>2</sup> and protests over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).<sup>3</sup> Serious human rights violations continue in Kashmir, including mass arbitrary detention and excessive use of force by the security forces. We urge this Council to hold India to account for its human rights obligations, and the commitments made seeking membership of this Council.

China continues to bar access to independent human rights monitors and to deny credible reports of grave crimes and other serious human rights violations in Xinjiang, Hong Kong and other parts of the country, including widespread torture, enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention. We urge states to stand in solidarity with those being targeted – including Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other Muslim-majority minorities and human rights defenders, journalists and peaceful protesters. We reiterate our call on this Council to launch an inquiry: this is precisely the sort of situation the United Nations was created to address and prevent.

Thank you.

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<sup>2</sup> Amnesty International India, Briefing: Six Months Since Delhi Riots, Delhi Police Continue To Enjoy Impunity Despite Evidence Of Human Rights Violations, 28 August 2020, available at: <https://amnesty.org.in/publications/6-months-since-delhi-riots-delhi-police-continue-to-enjoy-impunitydespite-evidence-of-human-rights-violations/>.

<sup>3</sup> See for example Special Procedures communication AL IND 3/2020, 28 February 2020, available at <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=25080>.