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## ORAL STATEMENT

UN Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee  
Special Meeting in India  
29<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Your Excellencies, Madam Chair,

Amnesty International would like to thank the Republic of India and the CTC for the opportunity to be here and speak to you today. As members of the Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Counter Terrorism we are very pleased to have been invited, though the views I express are Amnesty's own and may not represent every member of the Coalition.

We have documented misuse of counter terrorism powers globally, not least as a consequence of or otherwise under the guise of implementing prior UN Security Council Resolutions, such as 1373.

In the context of what we are discussing today we have seen internet shutdowns perpetrated in the name of national security that are truly designed to stifle protest movements. We have documented the vast proliferation of spyware used to target human rights defenders and journalists; designed and sold under the cover of 'counter-terrorism'. We have seen 'counter-terrorism' invoked to force companies to censor legitimate online political expression. And we have seen extra-judicial killings perpetrated with drones.

On a more positive note, we have seen journalists and human rights defenders use the anonymity allowed by encryption and other privacy tools to hold those who misuse power to account. Without the ability to rely on such privacy tools, the work of journalists, lawyers, whistleblowers and many others defending human rights, would become nearly impossible to carry out, and people around the world would be less able to express themselves online without fear of reprisal.

While of course states have a responsibility to keep people safe, true safety can only be achieved when pursued in compliance with international human rights.

With this in mind, Amnesty International stresses the importance of thinking twice about the adoption of new declarations, principles or resolution. Past practice has unfortunately demonstrated that the risk of any resolution or declaration being misused is no longer merely theoretical, but probable, and therefore we urge this room to carefully consider their responsibility for the real-world costs human rights defenders and others acting in the public interest will likely bear.

Thank you.