



AI Index: ASA 20/6572/2023
27 March 2023

**UN Human Rights Council
Fifty-second session,
27 February - 4 April 2023**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

INDIA

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes India's engagement in the UPR process and its support for 221 out of 339 recommendations.¹ We particularly welcome the support of recommendations to eliminate caste discrimination,² guarantee freedom of expression,³ and to protect the rights of religious minorities.⁴

However, the recommendations noted by India paint a grim picture of India's commitment to upholding human rights and respecting its international obligations.

Mr President,

Human rights defenders, news organizations and civil society organizations face an unprecedented crackdown in India.⁵ Regrettably, the government only noted

¹ Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review, India Addendum, A/HRC/52/11/Add.1

² A/HRC/52/11, recommendations 151.16 (Marshall Islands), 151.24 (Holy See), 151.63-151.67 (Ethiopia, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Germany and Cameroon, Costa Rica, Sierra Leone), and A/HRC/52/11/Add.1, pages 2 and 3

³ A/HRC/51/11, recommendations 151.111 (Costa Rica), 151.114 -151.116 (Lithuania, Italy, Greece), and A/HRC/52/11/Add.1, page 5

⁴ A/HRC/51/11, recommendations 151.89 (South Africa), 151.20 (Canada), 151.22 (Greece), and A/HRC/52/11/Add.1, pages 2 and 4

⁵ Amnesty International, India: *Persecution of minorities and shrinking space for dissent*, Amnesty International: Submission to the 41st session of the UPR Working Group (Index: ASA 20/5491/2022), page 3, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa20/5206/2016/en/>

recommendations to repeal, amend or bring the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act,⁶ the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act⁷ and the laws on sedition and criminal defamation in line with international human rights standards, raising serious questions about its commitment to protecting the rights to freedom of expression and association. India also merely noted the specific recommendation on renouncing internet shutdowns.⁸

Mr President,

India has done far too little to address the rising advocacy of violence and hate crimes against Muslims.⁹ We regret that India noted three specific recommendations related to preventing abuse of “anti-conversion” laws.¹⁰

The government rejected recommendations to amend the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019 and withdraw the National Register of Citizens which both violate the right to equality and non-discrimination.¹¹

Mr President,

Amnesty International welcomes India’s support for recommendations to ratify the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT)¹², which it signed in 1997. However, India has supported similar recommendations in previous reviews, but is yet to ratify the UNCAT. We urge India to take swift measures towards ratification as a signal of its determination to address torture.

Finally, we encourage India to implement supported recommendations as soon as possible. We urge the government to submit a mid-term report on progress towards their implementation, and use an Item 6 General Debate to bring this to the attention of UN Member States.

⁶ A/HRC/51/11, recommendations 151.94-151.102 (Australia, Holy See, Ireland, Slovakia, United States of America, Belgium, Republic of Korea, Germany, Estonia), and A/HRC/52/11/Add.1, page 4

⁷ A/HRC/51/11 and A/HRC/52/11/Add.1, page 3, recommendations 151.45-151.47 (Canada, Ukraine, Switzerland), 151.113 (Belgium),

⁸ A/HRC/51/11 and A/HRC/52/11/Add.1, page 5, recommendation 151.108 (Switzerland),

⁹ Amnesty International, *India: Persecution of minorities and shrinking space for dissent*, *Amnesty International: Submission to the 41st session of the UPR Working Group* (Index: ASA 20/5491/2022), page 4, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa20/5206/2016/en/>

¹⁰ A/HRC/51/11 and A/HRC/52/11/Add.1, page 5, recommendations 151.119 (Ireland), 151.121 (Holy See), 151.123 (Netherlands),

¹¹ A/HRC/51/11 and A/HRC/51/11/Add.1, recommendation 151.50 (Pakistan), , page 3

¹² A/HRC/51/11 and A/HRC/52/11/Add.1, page 2, recommendations 151.5 (Congo, Denmark, Eswatini, Fiji, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Slovakia, Sweden), 151.10-14 (Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Angola, Sudan, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Ukraine, Bahamas, Chile, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America),

Thank you, Mr. President.