

# **South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre**

**22 Northend Complex, Ramakrishna Ashram**

**Marg New Delhi 110001, India**

**e-mail: [ravinairsahrdc@gmail.com](mailto:ravinairsahrdc@gmail.com)**

**[www.hrdc.net/sahrdc](http://www.hrdc.net/sahrdc)**

**Landlines 91- 11-23361120 and 91-11-23342717**

**Mobile number: 91-9810344765**

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## **Submission to the 41<sup>st</sup> UPR Working Group session on India**

Honorable Member States for the UPR on India,

The South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre (SAHRDC) works for the protection and promotion of human rights by collecting, verifying and disseminating information on civil and political rights in the South Asian region. It is independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religious creed.

SAHRDC, in association with its sister organisations, played a key role at the UN Commission on Human Rights (CHR), where it brought out a special series of Human Rights Features focusing on CHR-specific issues. HRF in Geneva was the only publication of its kind at the CHR, reporting on the developments at the CHR session, analysing the issues on the CHR's agenda and providing focused recommendations. All issues are available at: <http://www.hrdc.net/sahrdc/hrfeatures.htm>.

We are happy to learn that India will be up for its 4th periodic review later this year. We trust that this review will be beneficial for India and strengthen institutional mechanisms for the protection and enhancement of Human Rights in India.

We are aware that many of you will be take this opportunity to address some of the concerns that go to the heart of common democratic ideals that all member states of the United Nations cherish.

Patterns of domestic human rights abuses in India are relatively well documented thanks to a brave, but increasingly beleaguered civil society. Here are four examples, amongst numerous issues, that are most relevant and important. With the exception of the issues of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) and the issue of the Freedom to convert, the other issues have not figured in previous cycles of the UPR on India.

We have for reasons of brevity chosen to highlight only 5 key concerns for your consideration.

**Annexure 1: Hate Crimes, Religious Discrimination and Intolerance towards Christians in Karnataka: A State-Sanctioned Paralysis of Legal Safeguards**

**Annexure 2: Anti-Conversion Laws in India: An Antithesis to Religious Freedom**

**Annexure 3: Collective Punishment in India: The Erosion of Democratic Principles, Religious Freedom and International Law**

**Annexure 4. AFSPA in North East India- The never ending trauma**

**Annexure 5  
Rohingya Refugees in India- Detain and Deport  
The new norms of an insensitive government**

In addition to the Annexures, we would be happy to furnish detailed notes on any of the subjects mentioned above. We could also furnish notes on other major violations on civil and political rights in India on request.

We do hope you will be able to take up these and other related issues with the honorable delegation of the Government of India during their upcoming Universal Periodic Review.

Thanking you for your consideration,

With respectful regards.

Sincerely,

Ravi Nair  
SAHRDC

Annexures: As above