

INDIA: PERSECUTION OF MINORITIES AND SHRINKING SPACE FOR DISSENT

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL: SUBMISSION TO THE 41ST SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP, NOVEMBER 2022

SUMMARY

This submission was prepared for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of India in November 2022. In it, Amnesty International evaluates the implementation of recommendations made to India in its previous UPR, including on ratifying the UN Convention against Torture, preventing discrimination and violence against women and girls, members of religious minorities, and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, attacks against journalists and human rights defenders, prevention of religious violence and measures to avoid excessive use of force by security officers.

It also assesses the national human rights framework including laws that have been amended to threaten the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act and Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, and discriminate against Muslims and LGBTI community, such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act. It also evaluates the performance of the national and state human rights commissions and the increasing dilution of their powers and independence.

With regard to the human rights situation on the ground, Amnesty International raises concern about freedom of expression and assembly, human rights defenders, caste-based discrimination, right to health, right to privacy, religious violence, arbitrary deprivation of nationality, indigenous peoples' rights and women's rights.

It ends with a set of recommendations to India which, if implemented, would contribute to improving the human rights situation in the country.