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ORAL STATEMENT

Oral statement on situations requiring the attention of the UN Human Rights Council (Item 4 General Debate HRC43): China, India, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jammu and Kashmir UN Human Rights Council

Forty-third session
24 February – 20 March 2020

Madame President,

Amnesty International remains deeply concerned over grave ongoing human rights violations in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (Xinjiang), **China**, notably the mass internment, intrusive surveillance, political indoctrination and forced cultural assimilation against Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic groups living in the region. Recent leaks of official government documents have made China's continued denials even less tenable. We again urge China to allow full and unfettered access to the region to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the clear terms she has presented to this Council, as well as to those Special Procedures who have raised concern.

We support the joint statement delivered by the [International Commission of Jurists](#) (ICJ) on **India's** Citizen Amendment Act, which weaponizes the National Population Register, and the Foreigners Tribunals to push minorities – particularly Muslims — towards detention and statelessness. We are alarmed by the police use of force against those peacefully protesting in this context, which has left at least 80 dead, including an eight-year-old child, and thousands arrested and detained since December 2019.

In **Egypt**, authorities continue to use a broad range of repressive measures against peaceful protesters and perceived dissidents, including enforced disappearance, mass arbitrary arrests, torture and other ill-treatment, excessive use of force and severe probation measures. Such measures increased following protests in September 2019. One key tool of in this repression has been the Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP), which following these protests ordered the detention of thousands pending investigation in relation to vaguely worded “terrorism”-related charges. We urge the Egyptian authorities to reform the Supreme State Security Prosecution; to release individuals detained for peacefully expressing their opinions or for defending human rights or carrying out journalistic work; to review the use of excessive pre-trial detention practices; to halt the use of the death penalty; to open a transparent and effective investigation into the dire conditions of prisons that may have led to the death of detainees; and to ensure that counter-terrorism is not used as a pretext for detaining peaceful critics and opponents.

In **Saudi Arabia**, despite major reforms to the repressive male guardianship system, women continue to face systematic discrimination in law and practice in other areas and remain inadequately protected against sexual and other violence. Despite the High Commissioner's call in March 2019 and again at this Session "for the release of several women who have legitimately and peacefully demanded reforms of discriminatory policies in the country" many human rights defenders remain in detention, including Loujain al-Hathloul. We urge the authorities to release these defenders, and to make genuine progress towards achieving [meet] other benchmarks set out in the joint statements delivered by a group of states in [at] this Council.

Finally, Madame President,

We support the [joint statement delivered by FIDH](#) on the human rights situation in **Jammu and Kashmir**, and again call on this Council to establish an independent international investigative mechanism into past and ongoing crimes under international law and human rights violations by all parties in Kashmir, as recommended by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Thank you.