



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
15 September 2021

English only

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## Human Rights Council

### Forty-eighth session

13 September–1 October 2021

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Global Welfare Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 August 2021]

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\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



## **Freedom of Expression**

My organization would like to share our serious concerns regarding freedom of expression in India. It has been mentioned that “since 2014, there has not been a single conviction in attacks on journalists in India who have been targeted for their investigative work”. This is not true, as there have been more than 200 serious attacks against journalists in India, as well as 40 killings of journalists between the years 2014 and 2019. The perpetrators for the killings of journalists and the attacks against them, have gotten away with the aid of indifferent police investigations. There has been a significant increase of female journalists being attacked by said groups from 2014 as well, and the females’ journalists who were covering the Sabarimala temple entry described these attacks to be sustained and vicious. As many as 19 female journalists were attacked during the period from 2014-19. Apart from the killing of editors Gauri Lankesh in Bengaluru and Shujaat Bukhari in Srinagar and the death of Doordarshan cameraperson Achyuntanda Sahu in an attack in Chhattisgarh, all other cases involved people working as staffers or stringers for regional language publications, reporting on crime and corruption in the Indian hinterland. In the latest attacks on journalists in the wake of anti-CAA and NRC protests, 14 journalists have either been attacked, intimidated or harassed by the police across the country in December 2020.

I urge this Council and the UN mandate holders to investigate the situation prevailing in India, and to seek impartial realistic information regarding how India persecutes its own citizens who dare to speak against the government.

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