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

Written statement* submitted by Al Baraem Association for Charitable Work, 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.

[21 May 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



India Human Trafficking

People are frequently illegally trafficked through India for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced/bonded labour. Although no reliable study of forced and bonded labor has been completed but NGOs estimate that this problem affects 20 to 65 million Indians. In India Human Trafficking is a largest illegal trade. Last year, a total of 4,966 registered cases of Human trafficking registered from across India. Half of them were reported from Northeast India. There are reports that 637 girls were trafficked from Assam, Tripura, and Mizoram etc. Human trafficking is a big problem in Northeast. My organization wants to bring council attention on two such cases. First case belongs to a 17-year-old girl from Kokrajhar District. On July 31, 2020, M's fate took an unprecedented turn when she was sold. A man named Jibon Ali sold her to Helahi Sheikh of West Siliguri. The perpetrator tried to bring this little girl into prostitution. In early 2022, her parent found him in Khalpara Red Light area. M. is one among thousands of people from vulnerable sections in Northeast who are prone to human trafficking. Victims of human trafficking in Northeast India disproportionately represent people from traditionally disadvantaged gender, caste, and religious groups. Second case belongs to a 17-year-old-girl named L. from Kolasib, Mizoram, and is working as housekeeping staff. She was recruited by an agent and willingly taken to Delhi for domestic work, but once they reached Delhi, she was physically and sexually abused, confined to the house, and treated as a bonded labour. She finally escaped and went back home. Though she did not consider herself to be trafficked as she went willingly, the treatment meted out to her fulfils all criteria of 'trafficking' as per Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), where consent of the victim is immaterial.

In year 2022, we fear that the actual numbers of girls trafficked will be more than double the reported figures. Many girls were trafficked to Malaysia and, Thailand. Therefore, the police verification process to obtain the passport needs to be reviewed as the trafficked girls had passed through many police and army check points. Many NGOs have submitted their reports to police and also made complaints to the police but the key traffickers were not investigated and no legal action was initiated by the Government. Thousands of parents still face the insecurity whether their children will come back from schools or not.

We urge this council to ask Indian government to control Human Trafficking and request this council to Communicate with India to invite the Special Rapporteur on Human Trafficking in person in the North East India to assess the true situation of Human Trafficking.

Universal human rights council, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.