



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Forty-ninth session

28 February–1 April 2022

Agenda item 4

### Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

## **Written statement\* submitted by World Barua Organization (WBO), 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.

[7 February 2022]

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\* 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.



## **Indian government harassing NGOs**

It is the duty of every state to allow INGOs operating in their country to operate independently and to ensure their safety. Almost every day there are thousands of human rights violation incidents taking place in India. Dozens of INGOs are working there and the Centre for Promotion of Social Concerns (CPSC) is one of them. The Centre for Promotion of Social Concerns, a prominent human rights organisation better known by its program unit People's Watch, monitors human rights abuses, works with socially and economically marginalised victims of abuses.

In Past, the Centre for Promotion of Social Concerns (CPSC) highlighted many Human rights violations in India. The Indian government used various methods to stop them from working and tried to harass them through the use of the Abusive Foreign Funding Law. Indian intelligence agencies Blame on Centre for Promotion of Social Concerns for foreign funding to share information with United Nations special rapporteurs and foreign embassies, "portraying India's human rights record in a negative light to tarnish India's image", which is a baseless accusation.

On January 8, 2022, India's national investigative agency, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) searched the offices of the non-governmental organisation Centre for Promotion of Social Concerns (CPSC) in Madurai, Tamil Nadu state. Officers from the CBI entered the premises and seized several documents and intimidated INGOs staff. The CBI officers informed the Centre for Promotion of Social Concerns that they were investigating allegations of fraud and financial irregularities. The ongoing harassment of the Centre for Promotion of Social Concerns and People's Watch by the Indian government violates their right to freedom of association and access to funding and appears to be aimed at punishing the organisation for its human rights work.

My organisation requested this council to ask the Indian government to immediately stop harassing the Centre for Promotion of Social Concerns and its program unit People's Watch and must take all appropriate and necessary actions to protect human rights defenders and organisations, including their right to freedom of association and access to funding.

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