

8TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL ON HUMAN RIGHTS

INTERFAITH INTERNATIONAL

STATEMENT BY: ~~DR SEKHON~~

NGO STATEMENT ON INDIA 'S UPR

Thank you Mr. President.

Mr. President,

Torture is a prevalent issue in India. This tool is frequently used against minorities and low castes to extract desired confessions. As contained in the outcome report, it will be in order that India ratify Convention Against Torture. This may not be enough. Special Rapporteur on Torture may be allowed unhindered access to India to investigate complaints of torture particularly in the North East of India, Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab.

Discrimination against low castes is again an issue which is integrated in Indian society. India must recognize castism as a form of racism and address it as part of its effort to eradicate racism in the country.

In the Summary of the outcome report, India has rejected that the security forces function with impunity under Armed Forces Act 1958. India forgot that it was its Government that had appointed a Committee to investigate the issue of impunity under Armed Forces Act and the Committee had proposed its abrogation. Unfortunately, the recommendation of the Committee has not yet been implemented. The issue of impunity is associated with the killings of Sikhs in 1984 and massacre of Muslims in Gujarat in 2002.

We would recommend that all Special procedures must pay increased attention to these issues in their reports on India.