

**Interactive Dialogue on the Secretary General's report on reprisals (29th September): Mr. Rajiv Jain**

Madam President,

The NHRC India appreciates the report of the Secretary General titled Cooperation with the UN, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights.

Since its inception, we at the NHRC have been working in close cooperation with a number of organisations and individuals to improve the human rights situation in the country. We have an officer designated as “Focal Point” for Human Rights Defenders, who is available 24x7. We have nine Core Groups on different themes, including one on HRDs.

Two meetings with separate groups of HRDs have been held earlier this year on a plethora of issues. Moreover, we have interacted with HRDs at grassroot level.

Our Complaint Management System has a special category for cases of HRDs. There have been several instances in which we have taken cognizance either suo-motu or on complaints of suspected intimidation and reprisals against HRDs. Where necessary, we intervene with senior officers of the government for resolution of issues. We have held workshops for dissemination of human rights education to HRDs. Our Annual Reports have an exclusive chapter on HRDs. The NHRC India, Madam, is committed to support the positive role played by HRDs, who are our eyes and ears on the ground.

Thank-you