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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 "Women and Modern World" Social Charitable Centre, 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.

[28 May 2021]

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



Arbitrary Arrests and judicial Harassment of Members of Human Rights NGO in India on Freedom of Expression

To be a human rights defender, a person can act to address any human right (or rights) on behalf of individuals or groups. Human rights defenders seek the promotion and protection of civil and political rights as well as the promotion, protection and realization of economic, social and cultural rights. Human rights defenders address any human rights concerns, which can be as varied as, for example, summary executions, torture, arbitrary arrest and detention, female genital mutilation, discrimination, employment issues, forced evictions, access to health care, and toxic waste and its impact on the environment. To all this he should have the right to freedom of expression. But India there are no any space for Human rights defenders and their freedom of expression. Our organization draw your attention the latest arrests in human rights defenders in India.

Laishram Herojit Singh, alias sintha, is a human rights defender and a strong advocate against the increasingly powerful drug nexus in the region. He is the secretary general of the coalition against drug and alcohol (cada) in thoubal district, a civil society organisation campaigning against the impact of drug and alcohol abuse. In his capacity, the human rights defender has led several campaigns to further awareness on the topic. Sintha also actively engages with and advocates against the issues of violence against women and children, mining and its impact on rights of indigenous communities and the protection and preservation of the environment in the state of Manipur. On 7 April 2021, human rights defender laishram herojit singh, alias Sintha, was arrested at his home by officers from the thoubal police station in the north east indian state of manipur. The defender was arrested on charges under the unlawful activities (prevention) act for his alleged membership of a militant group. After much efforts and running, on 12 april 2021, the court accepted the human rights defender's bail application, however the charges against him remain. Such incidents happen all the time in India. On 13 May 2021 Agra police arrest an NGO Owner named Deepali Pandey on a baseless charge that she duping a woman in Agra under the pretense of obtaining Remdesivir injections and defrauding her of Rs 70,000. Which is a negative tactic of Indian police. In fact, the reason for her arrest is to talk openly about the Human rights.

Human rights Defenders are deeply concerned about the arbitrary arrests and judicial harassment of members of NGOs. It believes that the human rights defenders are being targeted solely as a result of their peaceful human rights activities and their exercise of the right to freedom of expression.

We look forward to a positive response from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Special Rapporteurs (SR) on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the Special Rapporteurs (SR) on the situation of human rights defenders.

LE CONSEIL UNIVERSEL DES DROIT DE L'HOMME, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.