

15th Special Session of the Human Rights Council  
The Situation of Human Rights in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya  
Friday, 25 February 2011  
Intervention by India

Mr. President,

India welcomes the holding of this special session of the Human Rights Council focused on the situation of human rights in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya against the backdrop of recent developments there.

Mr. President,

02. We appreciate the efforts by the African Union to uphold the continent's commitment to democratisation, good governance and respect for human rights. We take positive note of the communiqué of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on the situation, as also the efforts by the League of Arab States.

Mr. President,

03. We remain deeply concerned at the violence in Libya which has led to serious loss of life and large displacement of population. We deplore the use of force which is totally unacceptable and must not be resorted to. We earnestly hope that calm is restored at the earliest without any further violence. We support the UN Security Council press statement of 22 February 2011 calling upon the Government of Libya to meet its responsibility to protect its population, act with restraint, and respect international human rights and humanitarian law. We urge the Libyan Government to lift restrictions on the media so as to enable an accurate assessment of the situation, as also to permit safe passage of humanitarian

assistance into the country. We are concerned about the safety of foreign nationals in the country and urge the Government to ensure their protection. We have an estimated 18,000 Indians in Libya.

Mr. President,

04. Special Sessions such as this, when used in an even-handed manner and in keeping with the Council's basic principles, play an important role in determining the credibility of the Council. To that extent, the Council needs to emphasise strongly the protection of basic human rights in situations of severe, motivated and extensive political violence, such as this one in the region which the Libyan people seem to be facing now. The credibility and legitimacy of the Council will be enhanced when the Council is seen to be dealing with similar situations in a similar fashion, and not sacrificing concern for human rights at the altar of political expediency and strategic opportunism. We take note of the concerns expressed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights about the extremely serious allegations of violations of human rights taking place in Libya and the need to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

05. As a democratic country we feel that the voice of the Libyan people who desire reform should not be ignored.

06. While we are encouraged to note the concerted action taken by the international community on this issue, we would like to highlight the need to maintain the territorial integrity and unity of the country. Our delegation looks forward to working with all the members and observer States of the Council, and reaffirms its solidarity with the people of Libya.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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