

Speaker: Thank you. My name is [inaudible]. I am here today to talk about freedom of expression in Egypt in regard to the Coptic minorities. The government restricts the freedom of media usage including blogging, journalizing and other types of media. Based on a study done by the Association for Thought and Expression in 2018, more than 500 websites, including media websites were blocked by the government in Egypt. We cannot forget that in 2019, the arrest of a Coptic activist [inaudible] who was arrested for more than two years simply because he welcomed the exercise of his right to housing and [inaudible] of Coptic families who had been forcibly displaced. The Egyptian media initially acknowledges a continued burning of Coptic churches as well as the killing of Coptic clergymen whose killers are described as mentally ill, in order to downplay their killing. Additionally, the official media of the state distains the Christian [inaudible] which is the official [inaudible] of the state which neglects the [inaudible] of anyone accusing them. Even though the government does not tolerate any mere discussion of the Islamic [inaudible] of any source. Therefore, [inaudible] recommend that the Egyptian government take [inaudible] measures, against those who [inaudible] Christian versions or direct hate speech and violence against minorities. Secondly, for the state to allow freedom of speech and expression and the agreement to ratify the covenant of civil and political rights. Thirdly we invite the United Nations Special Rapporteur to minority issues [inaudible] to visit Egypt to find out about the [inaudible] situation of the Coptic Christians. Thank you Mr. President and thank you.