

ABC Tamil Oli

Thank you chair. Any country can only develop if minorities are socially and economically developed. In South Asia, minorities are deliberately neglected. In India, Christians are known for their contributions in the field of education and medical care. They are prime targets. There were 525 attacks against Christians in the first 8 months of 2023. These do not include the hundreds of churches destroyed in the violence in the state of Manipur. Many government supporters seem to evade arrest in the event that cases are filed against them. The bail [inaudible] are seldom opposed and worse, even those convicted of serious crimes, like gang rape and murder, have been pardoned. Government critics and religious minorities are not just arrested, but face charges under draconian laws, denied bailed, and even have to endure summary justice, such as the demolition of their properties. Prejudice in the justice system undermines rule of law. In Sri Lanka, the construction of new Buddhist temples and the simultaneous cancelation of Hindu places of worship in the northeast of Sri Lanka represent a manifestation of Sinhalese domination and an attempt to alter the demographics and culture of the region. Between July 9th and August 22nd of this year, 14 incidents of religious hatred against Hindus was reported. The governments of these countries are urged to honor their commitment to the UN to treat minorities with equality and dignity. Thank you.