Statement by the World Evangelical Alliance and Jubilee Campaign

Human Rights Council 42nd session
Agenda Item 2: General Debate
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Speaker: Marije Davidsdocther

Mr. President.

We would like to highlight in our statement the government of Nepal's far-reaching restrictions on religious minorities.

Nepal's legislation criminalizes attempts to convert someone from one religion to another, and is in violation of international human rights norms relating to the right to freedom of religion or belief.

In April of this year, four evangelical Christians were taken to court for religious conversion, amongst which was Mr. Dilliram Poudel, Secretary General of the Nepal Christian Society, which is a member of the World Evangelical Alliance. Their next court hearing is on 22 September.

In May, a pastor has been arrested again for attempting to convert children. In June, two people including a pastor were arrested for attempting religious conversion. In July, a man was arrested for handing out Christian leaflets. In August, four members of a church in Salyan were arrested for leaflet distribution. In a private home in Dang, three people were arrested for fellowship.

We reiterate our call to the government of Nepal to repeal its 2018 amendments to the criminal code, which criminalizes a large scope of legitimate religious activity, and to cease the unlawful arrests of Nepalese Christians.

Thank you.