

UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, Mr. Maina Kiai addresses the challenges faced by Dalits

In his annual report ([A/HRC/26/29](#)) to be presented at the [26th session of the UN Human Rights Council](#), the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, Mr. Maina Kiai addresses the challenges faced by Dalits in their enjoyment of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. This is the first time that the Special Rapporteur has addressed caste-based discrimination.

C. Challenges to the enjoyment of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly by groups most at risk

Practices that threaten or impede the enjoyment of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly

46. *In other cases, inaction by authorities may prevent some groups from exercising their right to freedom of peaceful assembly. The Special Rapporteur has received numerous reports from India regarding the disruption of public assemblies of **Dalit** individuals — members of the country's traditional "untouchable" **caste**. This includes one case in 2009 in which members of another **caste** obstructed a funeral procession and beat members of the **Dalit** community. Police reportedly failed to intervene, despite being present.*

D. Challenges to the enjoyment of the right to freedom of association by groups most at risk

Practices threatening and impeding the enjoyment of the right to freedom of association

66. *Patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes in societies that promote a narrow understanding of the role of women as being confined to the private sphere militate against the ability of women to organize and participate in activities in the public sphere....Despite laws prohibiting **caste discrimination** and positive measures to reverse the impact of discrimination and violence, the **Dalit** population in India continues to face severe social restrictions in participating on an equal footing with others in political parties and associations. ([A/HRC/26/29](#))*