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The Permanent Mission of India to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Special Procedures Branch of the Human Rights Council and has the honour to refer to the latter's Communication No. UA IND 10/2018 dated 16 May 2018 concerning alleged death threats to journalist Ms. Rana Ayyub stemming from the dissemination of false information and the alleged failure by the authorities to provide effective protection. The following information may be brought to the attention of the concerned Special Procedures.

2. India is committed to ensuring a safe working environment for people engaged in promotion and protection of human rights. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) treats the protection of human rights defenders as a priority issue and has set up a platform for reporting rights violations. The Constitution of India guarantees certain fundamental rights to all our citizens that are sacrosanct. The Indian legal system and human rights institutions are independent and effective enough to ensure the fullest protection of the constitutional rights in all parts of India.

3. Media is an important institution of India's Democracy. Attention is invited to the 20th October 2017 advisory issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The advisory stated that it is the duty of the State to ensure safety and security of all journalists. It also directed all States of India to take all preventive and deterrent action as required in this regard. States are already empowered to provide security to individuals based on the threat perceptions. The Press Council of India works towards ensuring safety of journalists.

4. The Permanent Mission of India to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Special Procedures Branch of the Human Rights Council, the assurances of its highest consideration.

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