



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 47th SESSION

PRESENTATION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN – 22 JUNE 2021¹

Report [A/HRC/47/22](#) "Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran"

Overall, the report finds a **disturbing human rights landscape** for **Iranian women and men** of every **religious faith, ethnic origin, social class** and other status. The framework for the **right to political participation** is not in line with international standards. The report mentions the following issues:

- **Death penalty:** Widespread use of death penalty, including on child offenders.
- **State violence:** Excessive use of force in the context of peaceful assemblies, including in 2019.
- **Detention conditions and ill treatment:** Deaths in custody, torture, denial of medical treatment
- **Access to justice and accountability:** Climate of impunity, lack of due process and threat of reprisals.
- **Situation of Lawyers and human rights defenders:** Intimidation, false charges and targeting of relatives.
- **Women and girls:** child marriage, marital rape, compulsory veiling laws.
- **Impact of sanctions:** Negative economic and social impact of sanctions on poverty.

Ms Michelle Bachelet - UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (presenting the report)

Economically, Iran is facing **deteriorating living standards, high inflation**, and widespread **unemployment**, fuelling discontent and **protests**. **Sectoral sanctions** have aggravated **economic distress**, and the **COVID-19 pandemic** has badly hurt the already strained **health sector**.

Sanctions: The OHCHR reiterates the appeal to **waive sanctions** that could undermine Iran's capacity to respond to the **pandemic**. However, the **existence of sanctions** does not remove the State's responsibility to **respond to the pandemic** in line with **human rights law**.

Death Penalty: The OHCHR remains deeply concerned by widespread use of the **death penalty**, and its arbitrary imposition for a range of acts that under international law do not constitute "most serious crimes". In **violation of human rights law**, death sentences are also frequently imposed based on **forced confessions** extracted through **torture** or after serious violations of the **right to a fair trial**. In 2020, at least **267 people were executed**. Over **80 child offenders** are on death row.

State violence: The use of **inappropriate force by security forces** against protesters and bystanders in **November 2019** amounted to the worst incident of **State violence** at protests in decades. Protesters, human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists continue to be subjected to **intimidation, arbitrary detention** and **criminal prosecution**, including the death penalty. To date, there has been **no accountability** for any of the gross human rights violations committed by security forces in response to protests. In Iran, persistent **impunity for human rights violations** remains a crucial concern.

Rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly: A range of measures have undermined the **independence of Iran's bar associations**, and several lawyers have been charged on **national security charges** for participating in workshops outside Iran, or simply defending their clients.

Women's rights: Other lawyers – as well as numerous civil society activists – have been imprisoned for **advocating women's rights** and an end to **compulsory veiling laws**. In Iran the law still does not criminalize **child marriage** or **marital rape**, and fails to repeal the multiple **discriminatory provisions against women** in Iran's Civil Code.

¹ Watch the full recording of the presentation here:



Delegation of Iran – Replying as the country concerned:

We urge all states to uphold the principles of **universality, objectivity** and **non-selectivity** in the consideration of human rights issues and **avoid double standards**.

The Iranian people have shown maximum resilience against the **cruel unilateral coercive measures** imposed to put pressure on Iran. The **United States of America** continues to carry out unlawful practices of the former administration, in **defiance of international human rights law**. The US even **tightened its unilateral sanctions during the pandemic**, leaving no doubt as their true intention to target Iran and its people. The **US must be held to account** for its unilateral sanctions imposed on Iran.

The report presented today is based on an **entirely political mandate initiated by a group of like minded countries** that have for long **instrumentalized human rights as part of their agenda** against Iran. The product of such prejudicial **mandate is biased**.

This report is one of the four yearly reports, all similar in content and tone, originating from a mentality that is far from good intentions, **aiming at demonizing Iran**. How such flawed mandates could possibly contribute to the promotion of human rights? The pattern methodology used in compiling reports is based on **over-generalizing individual cases magnifying negatives, minimizing positives** and catastrophizing the whole situation.

We wish that Iran's responsive and professional approach would have been reciprocated by the report compilers, who instead opted to ignore the overwhelming majority of all 60 pages of comments and clarifications submitted by Iran. We also regret that the **compilers continue to underestimate drastically the true negative impact of unilateral coercive measures** on human rights of the Iranians. We also regret that the UN human rights mechanisms prefer to **keep silent on the assassination of Iranian nationals and scientists**.

Last Friday the **Iranian elected their new President** through ballot boxes, showcasing their determination to exercise their constitutional rights and secure the **country's democratic process**. Iran remains resolute in **upholding human rights**. We continue our interactive approach to contributing to the promotion and protection of human rights for all, including through constructive **engagement with other states and the OHCHR**.