

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 50th SESSION

Item 2: Presentation of the Secretary-General's report on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran¹

21 June 2022

In her presentation, **Nada Al-Nashif, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights**, listed significant social, economic, environmental and political challenges faced by Iran. These fueled protests among the population that was increasingly pushed below the poverty line. Despite ongoing sectoral sanctions, the economy returned to some growth. However, high inflation and widespread unemployment have compounded widening income and economic disparities. Ms. Al-Nashif also mentioned a series of legislative measures with potential serious implications for human rights that were either adopted or are pending adoption. Among these, the **Youthful Population and Protection of the Family Law**, approved by the Guardian Council on 1 November 2021, with detrimental consequences on the rights of men, women and girls to sexual and reproductive health. The law prohibits the free distribution of contraceptives in the public health care system, imposes a ban on voluntary sterilization for men and women, enacts a policy of restricting access to information on family planning, and imposes additional restrictions on abortion. Regrettably, she observed no progress towards the adoption of the **bill on violence against women**. In February 2022, the Parliament ratified the general section of the **User Protection Bill**, further restricting the information environment and isolating Iran from the global internet.

Ms. Al-Nashif reported increased numbers of **executions, including for drug-related offenses**. The **death penalty** continues to be imposed based on charges to "most serious crimes" and in ways incompatible with fair trial standards. **Use of force, arbitrary deprivation of life** against protesters and those in detention, continued with impunity. The scale of **deaths in detention**, both as a result of violence and ill-treatment by officials and due to the lack of timely access to medical care is of serious concern. **Civic and democratic space continued to be restricted** with human rights defenders and civil society actors operating within a coercive environment where violations are committed with impunity. Members of **minority communities and religions** continued to be targeted. In conclusion, Ms. Al-Nashif reiterated the call by the Secretary-General to introduce a **moratorium** on the imposition of the death penalty on individuals who were below the age of 18 at the time of the offence, with a view to abolishing the death penalty. She also urged the State to **use force in line with international standards**, investigate these events, to ensure accountability and urgently address the underlying reasons for the protests. She cited the Secretary-General's call on the authorities to investigate recent events and to take tangible measures towards achieving **accountability** for human rights violations, enabling space for the **respect of the basic rights** of those who call for change.

Iran (Country concerned) regretted the report being born from a purely political mandate forced upon the UN system by Canada, and some other actors, stating that the Council instrumentalized as a political leverage to antagonize a Member State and calling the use of human rights as a political tool appalling. Iran insisted that the report is based on false allegations, unsubstantiated claims and a malintended mandate crafted by a few Western states to stigmatize the country. Iran called the delay of publication of the report was deliberate, disregarding Iran's extensive responses and comments on the draft and adding negative elements. Iran stated their full commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights and international obligations. Iran mentioned the application of **UCMs** by **U.S.** violating the right to health, food and to education.

To watch full meeting refer to [UN Web TV](#).

¹ [A/HRC/50/19](#): Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran – Report of the Secretary-General. Advanced Unedited Version 16 June 2022. The report was submitted after the deadline to reflect recent developments.