

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 52nd SESSION

Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

20 March 2023

In his opening remarks, **Javaid Rehman, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran**, reported the circumstances of the death of Ms. Amini, in September, in the custody of Iranian morality police three days after her arrest for allegedly not complying with the country's discriminatory dress code. He stressed the legitimate claims of Iranian peoples of all ages, genders, ethnic, linguistic, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds, for an end to the serious human rights violations, including gender-based violence and discrimination, and their aspiration to a democratic and secular system of governance are meeting with brutal State violence. The Special Rapporteur remains **deeply concerned at the continuing and exponentially increasing violations of human rights in the country, including violence and brutal repression against women and girls**. Additionally, he is extremely concerned that children, human rights defenders, and ethnic and religious minorities continue to be the targets of brutal State repression.

The Special Rapporteur concluded that accountability is absent for serious human rights violations and crimes under international law within the political, constitutional, and legal systems of Iran. He strongly advocated the establishment of an **independent international fact-finding mission** to ensure justice and accountability for victims of human rights violations.

Islamic Republic of Iran (Country concerned) stressed that advocacy for human rights is increasingly mistaken by some States and human rights mandate holders for their unwarranted and egotistic purposes. Abusing the UN human rights mechanisms to single out and target those nations with independent foreign policy, is void of any added value for the protection of human rights. The Council's mandate is best fulfilled by dialogue and cooperation, in line with non-selectivity and impartiality. The Special Rapporteur's report, which read like a tragic novel, had been used by some Western media as an attempt to portray the situation of human rights in Iran. The Special Rapporteur disregards his mandate, in his lack of impartiality, using biased language, and violating the Code of Conduct. The Iranian people witnessed nearly three months of terrorist attacks and armed riots, but the Special Rapporteur did not even mention certain terrorist attacks, which left innocent people murdered and did not mention armed attacks on people in certain provinces.

Interactive dialogue

40 country delegations took the floor during the interactive dialogue, the majority expressing concern over the deterioration of the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as over the strong repression by authorities of peaceful protests and dissents. **EU, North Macedonia, and Albania** were deeply concerned by the continuing violence against women and girls, including cases of killings, physical and sexual abuse, and fierce repression of ethnic and religious minorities. **Countries** remained deeply concerned about the shutdown of all avenues of freedom of expression as well as heavy disruption of the Internet and censorship of social media platforms. **North Macedonia, Ireland, Spain, and Montenegro**, are appalled by the imposition of the death penalty in Iran against individuals arrested in connection with their participation in protests following the death in custody of Jina Mahsa Amini.

Syria Arab Republic, China, Cuba, and Russia Federation affirmed that the current dialogue under item 4, is based on a non-consensual resolution that did not enjoy the approval of the concerned country and is based on clear political motivations. They stressed the need for an immediate end to

this mandate and all similar, politicized, and non-consensual mandates, and called for the immediate and unconditional lifting of all unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Iranian people to enable them to fully enjoy their rights and achieve their economic and social development.

NGOs expressed their concern about the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as the failure of the international community to take meaningful actions against such a blatant violation of international standards. Iran remains one of the most active countries in imposing death sentences and executing people for drug offenses. All minorities and Iranian citizens are victims of severe violation of their fundamental human rights in violation of international human rights law. They asked also for addressing the gross violations of women's and children's rights.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (40 country delegations):

Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Estonia (on behalf of Nordic-Baltic countries), European Union, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Switzerland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Ireland, Germany, Spain, Albania, New Zealand, Italy, Malta, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Montenegro, Australia, Belarus, Romania, Syrian Arab Republic, Cuba, Nicaragua, Ukraine, Niger, Russia Federation, France, Argentina, Czechia Republic, Israel, Belgium, China, Luxembourg, Costa Rica, Canada, Zimbabwe, Netherlands, Republic of Moldova, Austria, United Kingdom.

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (12):

Baha'i International Community, Institute for Protection of Human Rights, Justice for Iran, International Bar Association Human Rights Institute, International Harm Reduction Association, International Educational Development, Inc., The Institute for Protection of Women's Rights (IPWR), Women's Human Rights International Association, Article 19 - International Centre Against Censorship, The, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH).

To watch full meeting refer to UN Web TV, [part 1](#) and [part 2](#).