

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 53rd SESSION

**Interactive Dialogue on oral update of the independent international fact-finding mission established to investigate alleged human rights violations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, related to the protests that began on 16 September 2022, especially with respect to women and children**

05 July 2023

**Ms Sara Hossain, Chairperson of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran**, opened the interactive dialogue addressing the Council toward women and girls' abuses and violations, expressing deep concern about the physical, psychological, and sexual abuse for exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms. She expressed serious concerns about continuous reports of harassment of family members seeking justice for their loved ones, including children, who were killed during the protest. There are also disturbing reports of harassment and intimidation of journalists, lawyers, human rights defenders, and their families.

She reported that the FFM is attempting to overcome the state-imposed restriction on communications and establishing secure channels. It is following a victim-centered approach to keep the security, protection, rights, and dignity of victims of human rights violations at the forefront.

In conclusion, she called on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to fully cooperate with the FFM mandate and ensure that all those affected have unhindered and safe access to providing evidence. The authorities have an obligation to ensure the enjoyment of the rights of all in the country not to be discriminated against and to be free from violence. Women and girls are no exception. They hold the primary duty to ensure accountability for alleged human rights violations related to the protests. The people of Iran, including women and girls, have fundamental rights to equality, truth, justice, accountability, and reparations.

**Islamic Republic of Iran (Country concerned)** addressed the Council informing it about violence and crimes perpetrated against Iran population in Germany, France, the United States, the UK, the Netherlands, and other Western Countries. Affirmed the necessity to convene an HRC special session to examine the situation in these countries. Unfortunately, double standards and hypocrisy have dominated human rights mechanisms; human rights so-called advocates have also deliberately remained silent. Affirmed also that in Iran, numerous assemblies are convened annually, even in the absence of official authorization, and they receive backing from law enforcement forces. Despite the rioters' large-scale violence, people's access to the Internet was never blocked. All domestic and foreign messengers (except Instagram and WhatsApp) were available to the public without any let or hindrance.

In conclusion, stressed that the protection and promotion of human rights is the Government's exclusive responsibility. An independent committee has been established pursuant to the directive of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the objective of identifying and addressing all material and bodily harm suffered by citizens and law enforcement personnel, receiving and investigating the complaints of the injured and investigating the claims about the violation of people's rights during the incidents. The so-called fact-finding mission is indeed an entirely politically motivated and unacceptable move.

### Interactive dialogue

42 country delegations took the floor during the interactive dialogue. The majority of the countries expressed concern about the deteriorating human rights situation in the country. They were alarmed by the drastic increase in executions observed, in particular for drug-related offenses. The use of the death penalty for such offenses is contrary to international law. They condemned the executions in

connection with the demonstrations in Iran. They called on the Iranian Government to investigate the human rights violations in the context of the recent protests and to prosecute and try their perpetrators; to guarantee fundamental human rights, in accordance with international laws. **EU, Germany, the United States, and France** condemned the violent repression of the Iranian government, which targets women and girls committed to their freedom, human rights defenders, journalists, researchers, artists, and people belonging to minorities. They called on authorities to release those arbitrarily detain, and to end all discrimination and violence against women and girls. **The Netherlands** added its condemnation of the act of the poisoning of schoolgirls in several cities in Iran. Those responsible must be held accountable.

**The Arab Republic of Syria** condemned the mandate of the FFM. The FFM is based on biased and politically motivated resolutions that have proven its failure to play any positive role in promoting and protecting human rights. The mandate of the FFM is a continuation of the attempts to target Iran and interfere in its internal affairs, and the accompanying false media incitement campaigns. **Russian Federation** rejected attempts to politicize human rights issues by the countries of the "collective West". The example of Iran shows how, under pseudo-humanist pretexts, the West is methodically advancing the line tested in other countries to destabilize the internal situation - up to the destruction of the constitutional order by encouraging unrest and violence. Additionally, **Cuba, Zimbabwe, Venezuela, and China** are opposed to the double standards of human rights; and to the imposition of unilateral sanctions against Iran, and interference in its internal affairs.

**The Islamic Republic of Iran** asked for points of order, expressing respect for the rules of procedure of the Council and terminologies used by countries. **Venezuela, the Russian Federation, Israel, the DPRK, and Zimbabwe** replied to points of order.

**Some NGOs** sharing FFM's concerns on human rights violations against women, girls, human rights defenders, and minorities, called on Iran to allow free and unhindered access to the country for United Nations Human Rights Special Procedure mandate holders and to fully cooperate with the FFM. However, **other NGOs** opposed and rejected politically motivated country-specific resolutions and mechanisms that violated the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity, and non-politicization, and constituted double standards in addressing human rights issues.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (42 country delegations):

EU, Venezuela, Finland, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Germany, Netherlands, Liechtenstein, Israel, Italy, Slovenia, Costa Rica, Luxembourg, Australia, United States, France, Canada, Malta, Arab Republic of Syria, UK, New Zealand, Ireland, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, Austria, North Macedonia, China, Switzerland, Iceland, Spain, Republic of Moldova, Albania, Argentina, Cuba, Romania, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Belarus, Ukraine, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Belgium.

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (10):

Justice for Iran, Ltd, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, International Educational Development, Inc., Maryam Ghasemi Educational Charity Institute, Minority Rights Group, Article 19 - International Centre Against Censorship, Lawyers for Lawyers, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, and Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims.

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