

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 55th SESSION

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

18 March 2024

Mr Javaid Rehman, Special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed the Council reflecting and assessing the overall human rights situation and the implementation of recommendations provided to the Iranian authorities. He also noted the positive steps and measures undertaken to improve the human rights situation.

He remained concerned at the ongoing executions and spike in death penalty sentences. Despite serious concerns expressed by my mandate and by the international community, children continued to be executed in Iran. The SR reported allegations of torture and ill-treatment in detention. All executions in Iran constitute arbitrary deprivation of life and violate the right to life guaranteed by Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The situation of ethnic and religious minorities remains of deep concern especially as the numbers of those executed from ethnic and religious minorities remain disproportionately high, particularly for drug- or security-related crimes. He remained seriously concerned at the harassment, intimidation, targeting, arrests and imprisonment of human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists and trade union activists.

Concerning the situation of human rights of women and girls, in the Islamic Republic of Iran they face ongoing repression, discrimination and the authorities have increasingly used further brutal and repressive policing methods on girls and women defying the compulsory hijab laws. Iranian authorities have maintained a system of gender apartheid and insisted on draconian laws, administrative policies and practices that increasingly violate the human rights and human dignity of Iranian girls and women.

Despite consistent requests throughout his mandate, the SR was never granted access to the country.

Islamic Republic of Iran (Country concerned) stated that it does not recognize the mandate whose predictable product is this fabricated and distortive report. It stressed that the report is not factual, nor is it professional, let alone being reasonably fair and balanced and reflective of Iran's constant progress in promotion and protection of human rights as well as the challenges it has overcome. It is one-sided and misleading. It mentioned that a monitoring mechanism on Iran's human rights is unwarranted and lacks any legitimate ground, is not fair and is not justified. It is inherently political and biased, and has proved to be counterproductive, too, by antagonizing Iran and by disseminating negative stereotyping about my country.

Interactive dialogue

36 country delegations took the floor during the interactive dialogue. **The majority of the countries** expressed their deep concern about the continuing gross human rights violations committed in Iran, particularly related to the peaceful protests, and strongly condemned the reported spike in death penalty sentences and executions, including of women and children. **Countries** were concerned by reports of continuing arbitrary arrests and the frequent use of torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, and by increasing limitations which have been placed upon the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, affecting various groups, including journalists and human rights defenders. Among others, the **EU and Israel** strongly opposed the use of the death penalty under all circumstances and condemned the exponential rise in its use. **North Macedonia** urged Iran

to take further steps to eliminate in law and in practice all forms of prosecution of and discrimination and violence against women and girls; take all necessary steps to advance their equal participation in public life; and ensure that the rights of women human rights defenders are protected.

The Council raised questions on how to address the situation ethnic and religious minorities in Iran.

Syrian Arab Republic appreciating the Islamic Republic of Iran's continued endeavour to promote and protect the human rights of its people, which is evident in the legislative and institutional developments it continues to achieve; stressed the necessity of ending the SR's mandate and all similar politicized mandates. Although several human rights violations highlighted in the report by the SR, **Syria and Argentina** urged adherence to the principles of objectivity, impartiality, and non-selectivity in the work of the Council to enhance its role as a mechanism for dialogue and cooperation to promote and protect human rights globally. **The Russian Federation** shared its position, rejecting attempts to politicize human rights issues, which in the hands of the "collective West" have become a tool of pressure on states that do not want to follow the course imposed on them from the outside. **Belarus** said that the SR's report is replete with fake data, in order to create the gloomiest picture possible, despite detailed factual denials from the Iranian authorities. It condemned the politicized unilateral initiatives put forward against Iran.

Although the Islamic Republic of Iran is a multiethnic and multireligious state, Kurds, Balochs, Bahai and other minorities are facing repression every day reported **NGOs**. Discrimination, environmental degradation, and economic neglect are defining aspects of life for minorities in Iran. **Payamavaran Hamyari (Chatra)** affirmed that the SR should respect principles of independence, objectivity, and non-selectivity in the consideration of human rights issues and eliminate double standards and politicization. Along with the **Organization for Defending Victims of Violence** affirmed that the SR has not met the expectations of the Iranian people of establishing a constructive dialogue with the country and building mutual trust in order to facilitate Iran's negotiations with his mandate. He should have had include NGOs and civil society. **Family Health Association of Iran** focused on the impact of sanctions. Under sanctions, Iran faces food crisis, food insecurity, debt crisis, inflation, climate change issues, pollution, biodiversity loss and framing problems, making people feel overwhelmed and powerless.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (36 country delegations):

Albania, Argentina, Belarus, Belgium, Burkina Faso, European Union, Finland (on behalf of Nordic Baltic countries), Luxembourg, Montenegro, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Romania, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Lithuania (on behalf of a Group of countries), France, Israel, Canada, United States of America, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, China, UK, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Eritrea, Germany, Sudan, Nicaragua, Australia, Burundi, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Moldova.

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

Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism, Ensemble contre la peine de mort, Family Health Association of Iran, Justice for Iran, Ltd, Maryam Ghasemi Educational Charity Institute, Minority Rights Group, organization for defending victims of violence, Payamavaran hamyari (chatra), Rahbord Peimayesh Research & Educational Services Cooperative, Society for Threatened Peoples.

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