

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL / WORKING GROUP on the Universal Periodic Review of the
Islamic Republic of Iran – Fourth Cycle**

24 January 2024

The Islamic Republic of Iran's national report was introduced by **H.E. Mr. Kazem Gharibabadi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Legal and International Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran**. He provided an overview of the nation's human rights achievement and challenges, highlighting the following key points:

1. Human Rights Initiatives:

- Incorporation of human rights education in school curricula and establishment of master's programs in human rights.
- Over 800 training courses for judges, law enforcement, and prison staff, alongside the publication of 186 human rights-related books and over 6,300 educational messages broadcasted on media.

2. Engagement with International Mechanisms:

- Submission of periodic reports on ICCPR, ICERD, and CRC, alongside active participation in reviews.
- Hosting visits from UN officials, including the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, and signing a MoU with OHCHR.
- Response to 233 communications from UN special procedures mandate holders from 2020 to 2023.

3. Developmental Achievements:

- Elimination of the gender gap in primary and secondary education and the inclusion of 33% women among university faculty members.
- Significant healthcare advancements, including reduced hospitalization costs and access to safe drinking water for over 86% of rural areas.
- Infrastructure improvements, such as near-complete electrification and internet/telecom access for 95% of rural areas.
- Launch of specialized hospitals for mothers and children and free education for 700,000 Afghan students.

4. Challenges Due to Sanctions:

- The negative impact of unilateral sanctions on Iran's economy, healthcare, and social welfare.
- Restrictions on access to essential goods, medical supplies, and technology, with sanctions violating international law and fundamental human rights.

5. Efforts to Mitigate Sanctions:

- Legal and policy measures aimed at alleviating the sanction's impact, including targeted subsidies for vulnerable populations and development of less-developed regions.

6. **Combating Terrorism:**

- Iran's struggle with terrorism, which has resulted in over 23,000 casualties in the last four decades.
- A call for international cooperation in combating terrorism and prosecuting perpetrators.

Main recommendations

International Human Rights Instruments and Establishment of National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)

- Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
- Ratify the Rome Statute of the international Criminal Court
- Fully cooperate with all human rights mechanism
- Expedite the institution of a NHRI in accordance with the Paris Principles
- Accept all outstanding visits requests by UN officials

Austria, Bahrain, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, India, Kenya, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Marshall Islands, Latvia, Mexico, Moldova, North Macedonia, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Spain, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, UK.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

- Continue efforts in promoting women's participation in different sectors of society, especially in public services
- Bolster efforts to increase the representation of women in public and political life, particularly in decision-making positions
- Strengthen women participation in economic activities
- Guarantee same opportunities in education and employment for men and women
- Ensure equality of women and men in law and practice
- Reverse laws that discriminate women and girls
- Release all persons arbitrarily arrested for participating in protests or for non-compliance with the mandatory hijab laws
- Combat gender based violence (GBV), including by criminalizing all forms of GBV

- Continue to promote the right to development by adopting strategies that empower women and girls through equitable access to education, healthcare, and social protection

Belgium, Brazil, Iceland, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine.

Legislative measures to protect and promote women's rights in Iran include allocating a significant part of the 7th Development Plan to support women and families; ratifying the Family and Youth Protection Action; approving the support package to help house finance needs of women-headed households; and approving the rules for insurance coverage of infertility treatment services and insurance coverage of prenatal care and health services for women and newborns.

Rights of the Child

- Improve the quality of education, including in rural areas and for people with disabilities
- Continue to support educational initiatives for children with a focus on developing their skills
- Abolish child marriage and raise to 18 years old the minimum legal marriage age
- Take further measures to uphold the rights of the child in the criminal justice system, taking into account the best interests of the child
- Ensure child protection mechanisms

Algeria, Bangladesh, Colombia, Eritrea, India, Indonesia, Italy, Oman, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Thailand, Tunisia.

Iran has planned and implemented several measures to protect the rights of children and adolescents, including by ratifying the Protection of Children and Adolescents Act (2020); amending the bylaws for granting guardianship as well as the protection of ill-cared and orphaned children in order to promote the family-based approach of child care; and approving the document on the protection of children and adolescents in cyberspace.

Death penalty

- Impose a moratorium on the death penalty, including for juvenile offenders, with a view to its abolition
- Ban executions for crimes committed by minors

Australia, Brazil, Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Paraguay, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, Uruguay.

Human Rights Violations and Accountability

- Immediately release all persons detained for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly
- Guarantee freedom of opinion, expression and assembly and cease arresting human rights defenders peacefully exercising these rights
- End intimidation and harassment of human rights defenders, journalists, bloggers, media and artists and ensure safe conditions for all to exercise their right to freedom of expression
- Introduce alternative punishments for drug-related crimes
- Ensure that prison conditions comply with the Nelson Mandela Rules
- Ensure accountability for cases of torture

Austria, Greece, Italy, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden.

Iran has introduced several measures to reform the judicial system, including approving the Law on Reducing discretionary custodial sentence; revising and approving the Law on Dispute Settlement Council; and issuing a directive to preserve the dignity and credibility of witness testimony in the judicial system.

All detention centers are controlled and monitored based on Note 2, Article 3 of the Prison Organization's Executive Regulations, and inspection boards visit all detention centers across the country on a rotating and sometimes sudden basis

Social and Economic Rights

- Address necessary measures to address social inequalities
- Integrate the right to development in national policies and implement measures that ensure all Iranians can participate in and benefit from national development efforts
- Ensure the right to healthcare for all
- Ensure access to water, including in rural areas
- Continue efforts to lift unilateral coercive measures (UCMs)
- Take the necessary measures to guarantee equal rights for all citizens and counter the discrimination of ethnic and religious minorities – with particular regard to Baha'is
- Strengthen efforts in promoting religious tolerance to foster peaceful coexistence and social harmony



- Ensure that all refugees within the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran are guaranteed their basic human rights and are protected from forced expulsion

Afghanistan, Armenia, Belgium, Czechia, Israel, Italy, Oman, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Viet Nam.