



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Interactive Dialogue with the Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran

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PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT BY THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR

Ms. Mai SATO, Special Rapporteur on the the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

The Special Rapporteur (SR) introduces her first report human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, of which she highlights **four critical areas of concern**.

First, the SR laments the **alarming use of the death penalty**. The year 2024 has witnessed an unprecedented search in executions. Over 900 known executions were identified, the highest since 2015, making Iran by far the highest per capita user of the death penalty globally. The pace is accelerating with at least 169 known executions identified in January and February alone. Should this alarming rate remain consistent, the total number of executions could exceed 1,000 this year, a chilling threshold that demands a collective global response.



Half of these known executions were reportedly carried out for drug offences, followed by homicides through *qisas*, broadly defined national security offences and sexual offences. Under international human rights law, these **executions fail to meet the most serious crimes threshold**. The SR takes the view that capital punishment reflects a state's to exert lethal violence on its people rather than serving as an effective deterrent. Children continue to be sentenced to death. While the SR acknowledges the State's efforts to prevent such executions, the SR must emphasise in the strongest possible terms that individuals who were below the age of 18 at the time of the offence should not be sentenced to death in the first place, let alone executed.

Second, the SR evokes **patterns of discrimination in diverse communities**. His report highlights the troubling ethnic and religious discrimination in Iran. This affects religious minorities, including Baha'is, Christian converts and Sunni Muslims, as well as ethnic minorities such as Azerbaijanis, Kurds, Ahwazi Arabs and Baluchi. The SR continues to receive reports of arbitrary detention, unfair trials and in some cases resulting in death sentences. Women from these communities face particularly acute challenges, experiencing multiple **overlapping forms of discrimination**.

Now turning to women, 2024 has seen at least **30 known executions of women**, the highest number in a decade. The SR draws attention to three women activists currently facing the death penalty, charged with broadly defined security offences for their activism and social work. They are Pakhshan Azizi, Wrisha (Varisheh) Moradi, and Sharifeh Mohammadi.

This same year in 2024, at least **179 femicides** were documented. Whether they are women as offenders facing execution or victims of femicides, these women share similar experiences that contributed to their circumstances, stories marked by domestic abuse, sexual violence and child marriages. It is important to understand these killings within the Iran's legal frameworks.

The country still lacks comprehensive **law against domestic violence**. The pending bill contains significant gaps, including the failure to criminalise marital rape and economic abuse. Women face systemic discrimination in marriage, divorce and child custody laws, with their testimony valued at half that of men's and movement restricted by requiring spousal permission. Finally, the legal distinction between **honour-related killings** and murder creates a dangerous hierarchy that effectively sanctions lethal violence against women.

Third, the **pervasive lack of transparency** is also one of the central findings of the SR's report. In this statement, the SR deliberately uses the term 'known executions' in my statement, because the Iran continues to withhold official execution figures, with only 10% of known executions announced through official channels. Iran should enable the reporting of all capital cases, make individual judgments publicly available, and regularly release statistics of death sentences and executions with demographic information. When a state wields the power to take life, it carries an obligation for full transparency.

On this, the SR commends civil society organisations for their meticulous data collection and families for providing testimonies despite significant risks. This **opacity extends across multiple domains**, including ethnic population composition, as well as child marriage statistics below the age of 10. The burden lies with the State to provide transparent data if it wishes to refute any assessments of discriminatory practise.



Fourth, the SR laments the **continued silencing of dissent**. The SR continues to receive reports of harassment and ill-treatment of human rights defenders, artists, civil society organisations, and journalists in detention, including denial of medical care for life-threatening conditions. The targeting of their family members also aimed to silence peaceful expression.

Dissent does not equal threat. A healthy society treats it as a vital force for growth rather than something to suppress. The SR urges the Islamic Republic of Iran to uphold freedom of expression, association, and assembly, and end harassment to those exercising these rights. Despite intense repression, Iranian people continue to demonstrate remarkable resilience, reflecting growing awareness and determination in defending these rights.

PRESENTATION OF THE ORAL UPDATE BY THE FACT-FINDING MISSION

Ms. Sara HOSSAIN, Chair of the Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran

The Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) has just completed two years of investigations into the human rights violations in the context of the protests that broke out in Iran in September 2022, following the unlawful **death in custody of Jīna Mahsa Amini**. Last week, the FFM issued its report, and today it released further detailed findings in a conference room paper. The FFM has now collected over **38,000 evidence items** and conducted interviews with **287 victims and witnesses**.

The FFM has also examined documents and materials produced by the Government of Iran. This consolidated evidence strengthens our earlier findings that state authorities committed gross human rights violations, including unlawful killings, injuries, arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, sexual and gender-based violence including rape, and a wide range of serious fair trial violations. Some of these violations amount to **crimes against humanity, including persecution on the grounds of gender**.

As previously concluded, while some protesters did engage in isolated incidents of violence, in large part the **protests were peaceful** and the authorities suppressed them with unnecessary, disproportionate and unlawful use of force. This year, the investigations conducted by the FFM led it to reach further conclusions regarding the treatment of specific groups during the protests. The FFM found that **ethnic and religious minorities**, in particular the Kurds and Baluchis, and **LGBTQ+ persons** were particularly targeted in the context of the protests. With respect to **children**, the FFM found that even when protesting peacefully, many were killed and severely injured after being fired at with ammunition containing metal pellets. They were subjected to torture including rape and extremely violent treatment in detention, while denied access to their parents and lawyers. Many children, both boys and girls, were left with lifelong injuries, including blinding and lifelong trauma.

The Chair of the FFM focuses her remaining remarks on **three key takeaways** from the findings. First, while the protests have subsided, **repression continues** and has been heightened both offline and online. Victims, survivors and their families are being harassed, intimidated and threatened for protected conduct, including for their efforts to seek justice and accountability, and even prevented, still, from mourning their loved ones.



Death sentences continue to be issued against those who took part in or supported protests. It was reported earlier that 10 men had been executed in connection with the protests, and another 11 men and 3 women remain at imminent risk of execution. The new trend of death penalty against women is deeply worrying, especially in connection with the ongoing repression of women human rights defenders more generally.

Over the last year, the FFM has investigated dozens of cases of women and girls **criminalised for their defiance of the mandatory hijab rules**. While the hijab injustice law does remain paused, aspects of it are already being enforced. The increased use of surveillance technology, including facial recognition and tracking apps, to monitor women's dress and conduct is particularly disturbing.

The FFM found that women are still being fined, having their vehicles confiscated, and subjected to violent arrests and prison sentences, and even, in some cases, to state-sanctioned flogging. Just last week, **four women human rights defenders were arrested** in Kurdistan province after peacefully commemorating International Women's Day. The FFM calls for their full protection and the immediate release from detention of Leyla Pashaei, Soheyla Motaei, Soma Mohammad-Rezaei and Baran Saedi.

Second, national-level efforts to provide **redress to victims and survivors** remain glaringly inadequate. The victims and their families who lodged complaints have faced further harassment, including by being criminalised themselves or subjected to threats and intimidation. The FFM did receive and had contact with Iran's Special Committee on the 22 unrests, who informed us of 563 decisions being made in relation to judicial cases against law enforcement officials, and also informed the FFM of compensation handed out to protesters. However, unfortunately, the FFM received no verifiable details in this regard.

Given the prevailing impunity in Iran, the FFM believes that **accountability must be pursued also internationally**, in line with the rights and expectations of victims and survivors with whom the FFM has spoken. The FFM's mandate is now to collect and analyse material on the **identities and responsibilities of alleged perpetrators**, and this is included in a confidential list which the FFM will provide to the High Commissioner.

The FFM has also conducted a mapping of structures of state entities and created profiles of entities, incidents, and persons of interest, which will again be available for sharing with any credible legal proceedings. The FFM has prepared a roadmap and recommendations for further action, including for establishing a **proposed victims fund** and for continuing to provide direct support to victims and survivors through humanitarian visas and medical and psychosocial support.

Third, two years of investigations reveal that **human rights concerns in Iran are vast and complex**, and far exceed the temporal and material scope of the FFM's mandate. Many of the serious violations and crimes that have been found have structural and systemic unaddressed root causes, including institutionalised discrimination and endemic impunity. These make their recurrence likely, if not probable.



The enforcement of discriminatory laws and policies not only enables repression of women and girls, but also other groups on grounds of ethnicity, religion, and or political belief. The suppression of these all equally warrant the Human Rights Council's attention. For this reason, and in conclusion, the FFM recommends that the UNHRC consider a **follow-up body**. This could continue to investigate the serious human rights concerns already identified, and also accompany accountability efforts. In this way, the Council can play a vital role in supporting Iranians' right to truth, justice, and reparations, and crucially, to prevent further cycles of violence.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

As regards **working methods**, **Ms. Mai SATO, Special Rapporteur (SR)** reiterates that she undertakes the work of the mandate in line with the Code of Conduct and on the basis of international human rights law. The information gathered and documented in reports and communications are based on investigation and collaboration. Specifically on her report, she has clearly indicated her sources as much as possible. The SR believes this approach is key as she continues to ask for transparency from Iran. The goal of the SR is constructive dialogue, accurate assessment and practical recommendations. The SR seizes this opportunity to reiterate her request to cooperate by granting unhindered access to the country and sharing necessary information.

Turning to **sanctions**, states that implement UCMs should have effective humanitarian exemptions in place. That said, sanctions do not absolve the state from protecting rights. To take an example on women's rights, discriminatory family laws, child marriage and inadequate domestic violence protections do reflect domestic policy decisions which are independent from international restrictions. Addressing questions on **Iran's cooperation with the SR**, the SR held meetings with the Permanent Mission of Iran, and since the beginning of her mandate in August 2024, the SR acknowledges having received state responses to the individual cases raised in her communications. The SR would encourage further, more substantive engagement on these cases.

Turning to what states can do, the SR points out that the **withdrawal of funds** by some states has severely hampered the work of civil society organisations. The latter provide a secure platform for victims to speak truth to power. As the current situation threatens vital human rights documentation when it is most needed, the SR urges states to continue supporting these organisations. The SR's report further shows that human rights violations against the Iranian people **extend beyond borders**, affecting diaspora communities whose freedoms and sometimes lives have been threatened and lost. The SR hence urges states to provide protection for those facing serious security threats in the country.

Drawing lines between the **SR's mandate and the FFM**, the SR explains that both work on human rights situations, but they operate on different modes of work. The FFM investigates and preserves evidence with a specific focus on **accountability**. What is unique for the SR's mandate in her view are **communications**. These communications can be sent anytime and enable direct engagement with Iran to seek clarifications, raise concern, urge actions, serving as an early warning mechanism that give victims and families a voice. The SR's mandate also actively engages in advocacy. In the SR's view, both mandates work in a complementary manner.



Turning to some remarks on **women's rights**, the SR clarifies that the Islamic Republic of Iran, overall, has a high human development index, but a **low gender equality index**. This means that the country's developmental gains have not been equitably distributed between men and women. Iran has indeed achieved progress in areas such as access to education, but these advancements have not been translated into meaningful economic and political participation for women. For instance, women actually outnumber men in colleges and universities, but data from 2023 show that women's labour participation rate remains low at 14% compared to men's at 71%.

The SR also acknowledges that women do hold some government positions, but it was unclear from the figures presented to assess meaningfully **women's representation**, particularly the total number of positions available at each level of their political role. The SR also notes that despite the mandatory inclusion of **female advisory judges** on family court panels since 2013, their role is advisory, only requiring male judges to consider but not necessarily follow their opinions. Hopefully, this clarifies the misunderstanding of the report.

By closing on the issue of the **death penalty**, the SR thanks all member states calling for a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its complete abolition. As already mentioned during the presentation, the total number of executions could exceed 1,000 this year. This figure represents more than just a statistic. It reflects individual human lives lost through direct and intentional state action. Behind the data are families affected, communities impacted and important questions about justice and human rights that need addressing. The SR will be monitoring the use of the death penalty closely and continues to encourage reforms that prioritise human rights over punitive measures.

In response to the statement by delegation of Iran, **Ms. Sara HOSSAIN, Chair of the FFM**, points out that the FFM respectfully disagrees with Iran's remark that the FFM had ignored the responses from the Government. The **FFM has sent 35 separate letters** to the Government over the last two years to which it has received responses to only five. The FFM has met three times with the Special Committee. The FFM has received some information which it has reflected in its report and in its conference room paper, but unfortunately it has not received verifiable information or documents sought for. The FFM has also made 66 separate references to Government of Iran documents and responses in the report, and the Chair urges the Government to look at those.

In relation to the suggestion that the FFM has not acted independently, the Chair of the FFM completely refutes that. The **FFM has acted independently and impartially**, by applying the UN standard methodology in the conduct of its investigations. Finally, the Chair reiterates that the FFM has the **deepest respect for Iran's diversity** and for the courage and resilience of its people. The Chair heard what the Government said on double standards and acknowledges that. At the same time, speaking on behalf of the entire FFM, the Chair reiterates and recalls the universality of human rights and the duty of every state to ensure the rights of all citizens and all persons within its territories.

Ms. Shaheen SARDAR ALI, member of the FFM, points out that the latter only scratched the surface of exposing the structural and institutional discrimination against women and ethnic and religious minorities. More investigations into the unaddressed root causes is required, which is



one of the reasons why the FFM is recommending a **follow-up mechanism** as continued scrutiny is essential. In the meantime, there is need to continue to support the victims and survivors of persecution through asylum, humanitarian visas, and other support. States need to encourage Iran to ratify CEDAW without reservations. The FFM would also request states to raise the issue of racial discrimination at bilateral and multilateral levels, including at the UNHRC, in line with Iran's CERD obligations. In closing, she takes this opportunity to thank all the victims, the survivors, their families, and all the interlocutors. The FFM is deeply humbled by the trust they have placed in the FFM and offered the FFM valuable, primary, verifiable, authentic data.

Ms. Viviana KRSTICEVIC, member of the FFM, addresses the question of what states can do to foster truth and justice in Iran. The SR made many very important suggestions that the FFM wants to second. The FFM also reiterates that the Government of Iran has the **primary responsibility to provide truth, justice, and reparations**. However, the FFM has assessed these possibilities as being really lacking in the country, as the FFM has documented **chronic impunity** and severe limitations to the protection of these rights. Therefore, the FFM took the time to consult with victims and experts to get their expectations, but also a diverse set of experiences, and it established a roadmap to ensure that victims can have a modicum of truth, justice, and reparations. The FFM emphasises the need to secure justice, for which it is very important to **support all accountability efforts internationally**. There are many specific suggestions outlined in the FFM's conference room paper.

There are also important suggestions on how to support and strengthen efforts for **truth-telling, rehabilitation of victims, protection of victims outside and inside the country, and accountability**, including the establishment of a victims fund that could help in providing individual and collective reparations, including by using the frozen assets of individuals. The FFM has also made suggestions on how can states support the efforts of victims towards truth and accountability and states' own efforts, notably by remaining seized of the human rights situation in Iran; by keeping their concerns over the victims and survivors and the activists in Iran; by providing them support in the host countries, speaking up and recognising their pain, their claims, their hopes, their courage.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Views Expressed by the Country Concerned

The delegation of the **Islamic Republic of Iran** states that today, the world is witnessing another abominable staging in the UNHRC. At a time when the Council has faced serious questions in the eyes of the world public about its performance in the serious human rights situations, especially the Palestinian issue, some Iranian states have set the stage for discussion on the human rights situation of a civilised and proud country, the Islamic Republic of Iran. A country with an ancient history and civilisation, tremendous services to human society, and proud resistance against injustice and malicious interferences.

This performance becomes even more ridiculous and offensive when realising that its main actors are Germany and the United Kingdom, two countries with the darkest human rights records. During the past 18 months, when the human conscience learned the situation of the people of Gaza and all the freedom-loving people of the world raised their united voice against



the crimes of the Israeli regime, Germany and the United Kingdom brazenly supported these crimes. While **Palestinian women and children were burned in the fire of genocide**, high-ranking officials of these two countries travelled to Tel Aviv to offer sophisticated weapons to the regime. These two countries are complicit in the crimes of the Israeli regime by providing financial, military, and political support to Israel and must be held accountable to the human conscience.

The same countries, in a hypocritical behaviour by initiating a resolution against Iran, have exposed the insincerity and utter lack of credibility in their so-called advocacy for human rights. These states lack the legitimacy to engage in human rights discussions concerning other countries. They only sow the seeds of despair in the UNHRC. The sponsors of the resolution on which this UNHRC session is based are themselves among the main regulators of human rights of the Iranian people. They do so either by imposing unilateral coercive measures (UCMs) or by collaborating in and adhering to the enforcement of the United States' cruel and unlawful unilateral sanctions against Iran. They have jeopardised Iran's enjoyment of their economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as the right to development for both present and future generations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly adheres to its principled position of opposing and rejecting both **monetary mechanisms of the SR and the FFM** and questions their credibility and legitimacy. Yet, Iran would like to make some clarifications. Regarding the **mandate of the SR**, Iran does not see any proportionality between the mandate itself and the situation of human rights in the country. Despite all negativity assumed to the mandate itself, Iran has decided to interact with each mandate holder according to their method of work and compliance to the related code of conduct. In this regard, Iran invited the current SR to distance herself from the destructive past and legacy of her predecessor, who relentlessly exploited the credibility of the UNHRC for his selfish and fame-seeking purposes. Iran will carefully evaluate the approach and activities of the SR and will adjust its interactions accordingly.

Regarding the FFM that was created on the Germans' vanguard, Iran strongly rejects its establishment, continuation, and renewal. The **creation of the FFM** was totally unwarranted and unjustified. The reports of the FFM during the last two years were a compilation of lies and false accusations that were fabricated by anti-Iranian terrorist activists and their Western supporters for deriving their own political instructions on Iran. Given this approach, the Islamic Republic of Iran is not in a position to cooperate with the FFM. Iran will not, under any circumstances, engage with the FFM, and if it is adopted in the form outlined in the draft resolution, Iran will undoubtedly consider the assessment of its cooperation and interactions with the UN human rights mechanisms. As long as a group of countries, a small group of countries, use the UNHRC to advance their strategic agendas against other nations, one cannot expect the UNHRC to have any meaningful impact on the genuine promotion of human rights.

To conclude, the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a staunch defender of multilateralism, has clearly demonstrated its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. Iran respects human rights based on what learned from its religion, history, and culture. The Government and people of Iran have demonstrated that they will not abandon their beliefs on independence as well as their strife for global peace and justice.



Views Expressed by State Delegations

Estonia jointly with the Nordic-Baltic countries thank the SR and the FFM for their respective reports which shed a grim light on the situation of human rights in Iran. As the SR, the Nordic-Baltic countries are deeply alarmed by the frightening surge of executions with well over 900 executions reported in 2024 including an increasing number of women. They are also concerned by the reports of extrajudicial killings of over 250 border couriers. This points to the critical need for continued monitoring and reporting. Iran continues to enact new measures to suppress the legitimate demand of the people of Iran, in particular women and girls, for their human rights to be respected. They further note the FFM's conclusion on the need for a follow-up to its work with a mandate to investigate allegations of serious human rights violations and crimes against humanity, both past and ongoing. A climate of fear and systematic impunity cannot be tolerated. Victims and survivors have a right to truth, justice, accountability and reparations. The countries ask the experts what could states do to support truth, justice and accountability for the people of Iran.

Venezuela jointly with the Group of Friends in Defence of the UN Charter states that Iran has been the target of a selective and politically motivated mandate, one that is deliberately confrontational by UNHRC Special Rapporteurs, and this since 2011. Following the uprising that was manipulated and fermented from abroad in 2022, Iran has faced a second unjust and unjustified second mandate of the fact-finding mission. The duplication of mechanisms on Iran is a clear demonstration of the imposition of the utmost pressure on the independent and anti-occupation foreign policy of this country. Iran stands firm in its commitment to effectively meet the social and economic needs of its citizens and is persistent in its efforts to safeguard its people's human rights. It is important to foster greater cooperation of Iran with OHCHR's mechanisms since 2024. The Group of Friends in Defence of the UN Charter underscores once again that equity and cooperation are the best way of achieving common goals, and commends Iran's participation in various treaty body reviews and the UPR. It is therefore imperative to lift any duplicate mandates which are unjustified against Iran, enabling the country to follow its development path.

On behalf of a **cross-regional group of over 45 states, Costa Rica** states that two and a half years after the protests began, women and girls in Iran continue to face systematic discrimination in law and practise, permeating all aspects of their life. Iran persistently persecutes family members of those killed or executed during the 2022-2023 protests, who seek accountability for violations against their loved ones. For simply expressing their views, human rights defenders, activists, lawyers, teachers, trade unionists, artists and journalists have been forced to leave Iran. The authorities label some of the targeted dissidents as terrorists, using the term to justify violence and disregard due process. The State's concerted effort to stifle dissent has perpetrated a climate of fear, reduced civic space and restricted the exercise of the freedoms of association and peaceful assembly and of expression. The authorities have intensified their crackdown on religious and ethnic minorities, with women being disproportionately targeted. In 2024, dozens of Baha'i individuals continue to be intentionally and systematically repressed. The FFM on Iran has found that human rights concerns in Iran are extensive and complex. There is a need to keep investigating continuing human rights violations and allegations of crimes against humanity and their root causes. The group therefore calls upon the UNHRC to appropriately expand and extend



the mandate of the FFM and call on Iran to cooperate fully with it and implement its recommendations.

Liechtenstein extends its gratitude to both the SR and the FFM for the presentation of their reports and their crucial work. Liechtenstein is concerned about the extraordinary rise in executions last year and at the beginning of this year, including the highest number of executed women in the past decade. Liechtenstein is appalled that even children continue to be sentenced to death. Liechtenstein urges Iran to immediately establish a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards its complete abolition. Although the new President of Iran has promised prior to his election to ease the enforcement of mandatory hijab laws, the opposite seems to happen and the already tight grip on women's and girls' freedom to exercise their human rights is restricted even further. Liechtenstein calls on the Iranian Government to ensure the protection of the rights of women and girls, including protection against violence and systematic discrimination. Accountability for long-standing, systematic and widespread human rights violations is paramount to address the complete impunity. Liechtenstein stresses the need for the continuation of keeping the human rights situation in Iran on the UNHRC agenda.

Luxembourg thanks the SR and the FFM for their reports, thereby expressing full support for the renewal and expansion of their mandates. Luxembourg remains concerned by the scale of violations of human rights in Iran and systemic discriminations against women and girls, as well as the impunity for cases of gender-based violence. The reports underscore restrictions of freedom of opinion and expression and continued repression against human rights defenders, journalists, union figures, artists and all critical voices. Luxembourg is concerned by the forms of multiple and intersectional discrimination suffered by women belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, notably women of the Baha'i faith. Luxembourg is further concerned by the continued increase in the number of executions and death penalties in 2024. Most of them concern offences which are not listed as the most grave crimes. Some of the victims were minors at the time of the offence. The Iranian authorities must fully respect their obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The mandate of the FFM remains fundamental to assure accountability and to put an end to impunity. Luxembourg calls on the Iranian authorities to fully cooperate with these two mandates and to guarantee that the mandate holders have unfettered access to the country.

Thanking the FFM and the SR for their valuable work and reports, **Germany** deeply deplores the continuing repression of the Iranian population, particularly of women and girls. It reiterates its condemnation of the restriction of human rights imposed by the Government including the freedom of information, freedom of religion and belief and repression of civil society and journalists in Iran. Germany condemns in the strongest possible terms the implementation of the death penalty following unfair trials and the systematic use of torture to extract false confessions. Germany calls upon Iran to immediately suspend the sentencing and execution of the death penalty, seize all arbitrary detention, inhumane treatment and to grant due process to all detainees. As the FFM has highlighted, these are not occasional violations. Structural causes precipitate these infringements of the most basic human rights in Iran. Therefore, together with our partners, Germany seeks the extension of the mandates of the FFM and the SR. The human rights situation in Iran and the victims of violations rightfully deserve the attention of the UNHRC.



With this in mind, Germany asks how could the international community further contribute to the alleviation of the systematic discrimination against women, ethnic and religious minorities.

Costa Rica welcomes the reports presented and reiterates its deep concern at the human rights situation in Iran, notably an alarming increase in the use of the death penalty as a political tool following unfair trials and confessions extracted under torture. Costa Rica strongly condemns the simulation of executions, which is a cruel act of torture. State violence has reached disturbing levels. Children have been victims of torture, sexual violence and enforced disappearances. Some, including as young as seven, have been killed during protests, whereas others are held in detention arbitrarily. The age of criminal liability in Iran, nine years for girls, facilitates their criminalisation and ill-treatment. The State has turned surveillance, including online surveillance, into a tool of repression using drones and vigilante groups that persecute those who defy their norms, especially women. Costa Rica is alarmed by the systematic use of repressive tools, especially against women, girls and minorities. Families are silenced and repression transcends borders. Costa Rica firmly condemns these human rights violations and we urge Iran to end repression, to facilitate justice and accountability and to be transparent, facilitating access to detailed information about any potential judicial proceedings against law enforcement officers. Given the serious complexity of the situation and the multidimensional challenges and deep structural causes of this human rights situation, Costa Rica believes that the UNHRC should keep its focus on Iran.

Thanking the SR and the FFM for their important work, **Switzerland** remains alarmed by the human rights situation in Iran. Symptomatic of the ongoing trends is the fact that the number of executions exceeded a sad ceiling in 2024 with at least 901 executions that were reported. Switzerland laments this bleak figure and we call on Iran to reduce the number of crimes that are punishable by the death penalty and limit it to the worst crimes in accordance with international law. Moreover, multiple journalists and human rights defenders are the target of intimidation, harassment, arrests and arbitrary detentions. The Swiss delegation calls on Iran to repeal all laws and practises that criminalise the right to freedom of expression and to release all persons who have been imprisoned for having exercised that right. Regarding women's rights, Switzerland commends the suspension of the Bill on the Protection of the Family through the promotion of the hijab culture and chastity. It calls on Iran to continue along this track by repealing all laws and practises that are discriminatory against women and girls. Switzerland encourages the Iranian authorities to continue their collaboration with OHCHR and to extend this cooperation to all international human rights mechanisms. In closing, Switzerland asks for updates on the SR's cooperation with the Iranian authorities and SR's expectations vis-à-vis the international community in this regard.

The **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)** states that Iran has been targeted to selectively politically motivated and confrontational countries based on mandates as a result of political deals by some Western countries. The question of this duplicative mechanism and debate obviously shows the intention to spread disinformation about the situation of Iran and increase the pressure on sovereign states. Abusing the UN human rights mechanisms to single out and harass some nations that do not align with the hegemonic and geopolitical interests of the West is a gross violation of core principles of respecting sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs of states enshrined in the UN Charter. Politically motivated pressure and biased



approach is counterproductive that undermine the dialogue and cooperation for the genuine promotion and protection of human rights. The DPRK urges the HRC to encourage the genuine dialogue and cooperation with the state, carry out work based on its mandate in an objective and impartial manner, and stand against politicisation, selectivity and double standard of human rights.

Spain welcomes the valuable work and reports by the SR and the FFM. Spain condemns the alarming increase in executions in 2024. Spain calls for the death penalty to be abolished and as an initial step towards this to limit this cruel inhuman and degrading treatment which is incompatible with the universal human rights values. Spain expresses its deep concern at the human rights situation in Iran, especially as regards women, girls and minorities, who every day face discrimination and suffer the consequences of economic and social inequality and in the case of women, inequality before the law. While acknowledging the progress made by Iran regarding access to education for women, this achievement is however still a far cry from real equality of opportunities. There are still major barriers that limit women's full participation in society. Spain also expresses alarm at the violence exercised by the state's forces and the deplorable conditions of detention and condemns systematic repression against freedom of expression and association, including harassment of human rights defenders and activists who advocate for women's rights.

Thanking the SR and the FFM for their reports, **Australia** remains gravely concerned by Iran's persecution of women and girls and the use of violence to enforce mandatory hijab compliance. Australia calls on Iran to cease its systemic oppression of women. Urgent action is also needed to address the increased incidence of femicide as reported by SR. Alarmed by Iran's increased and extensive application of the death penalty in 2024, Australia calls on Iran to halt any further executions and establish a moratorium on the death penalty. Australia is concerned by the SR's finding that trials conducted in Iranian courts continue to fall short of internationally acceptable standards of fair trial or due process. Reports that confessions have often been extracted by force and detainees have been subjected to inhumane conditions are unacceptable. Women and girls, persons belonging to minority groups and political activists in Iran have reportedly experienced some of the harshest treatment, including arbitrary detention, death sentences and executions, torture and sexual and gender-based violence. Australia asks the SR what more could be done to hold Iran to account for targeting women and girls and minority groups, including through its justice system.

North Macedonia thanks the SR and the FFM for their vital work. Their reports highlight widespread repression, including excessive force against protesters, arbitrary detentions and a sharp rise in executions. The death penalty is being used as a tool of political oppression, disproportionately targeting activists, ethnic minorities and women. North Macedonia is deeply concerned, notably at the escalation of gender persecution. Women and girls face systematic discrimination, intensified enforcement of hijab laws and state-sponsored harassment. The proposed hijab and chastity law further restricts freedoms and increases surveillance. Additionally, reports detail a growing crackdown on human rights defenders, journalists and civil society, as well as torture and forced confessions. Many executions occur in secrecy, violating Iran's human rights obligations. These actions may amount to crimes against humanity. North Macedonia calls on Iran to end these violations, halt executions and ensure accountability. Full



cooperation with the SR and FFM is essential. The renewal of these mandates remains crucial to ensure ongoing investigation and documentation of human rights violations in Iran, including the systemic persecution of the Bahá'í community.

Malta remains concerned that over two years since the start of the FFM's mandate and reports illustrating that women and girls continue to face systematic discrimination in law and in practise that permeates all aspects of their lives. Malta also voices deep concern at Iran's refusal to cooperate with the mandates of the FFM and the SR, and has not allowed access to the country to either mandate while accountability remains lacking and obstructed by state institutions. The SR's report provides the UNHRC with important information about the human rights situation. Malta is alarmed at the application of the death penalty to over 900 persons in 2024 only. Malta reiterates its call on Iran to establish a moratorium on the death penalty and to cease its application to minors. It also calls upon Iran to amend legislation to prohibit child marriages and to implement legislation in line with international standards on the treatment and protection of women both in private and public domains and across all state institutions. Despite international outcries following the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022, women still face repression in their exercise of human rights. Iran is obliged to implement human rights standards it freely subscribes to through its ratification of international instruments.

The **Netherlands** expresses its deep gratitude to the FFM and the SR for their dedicated work and reports over the past years which underscore the urgent need for continued monitoring and accountability. It is imperative that both the FFM and the SR can continue their work under suitable mandates. Emphasising two of the numerous findings in the FFM's report, the Netherlands notes that the FFM found that at least 10 persons have been recently executed in Iran simply for exercising their right to peaceful protest, and 14 others remain at imminent risk thereof. The FFM also notes that many of the violations committed by the authorities, such as murder, torture, sexual violence, including rape, amount to crimes against humanity. The Netherlands strongly condemns the systematic oppression of women, girls, human rights defenders, LGBTQI+ individuals, and ethnic and religious minorities, thereby denouncing the alarming violations of rights and executions, Iran's practise of arbitrary detention, and transnational repression. Finally, the Netherlands urges Iran to consider all recommendations and to fully cooperate with both the SR and the FFM.

Chile reaffirms its commitment to the defence of human rights and accountability, which are part and parcel of our feminist foreign policy. In this context, Chile expresses its concern over the human rights violations documented in the reports, including violent crackdowns on protests, the prosecution of human rights offenders, and restrictions on their fundamental freedoms, as well as the extensive use of the death penalty. At the same time, Chile commends OHCHR's visit to Iran in February 2024. This was a major step forward in the dialogue with the Iranian authorities on the human rights situation in the country. Chile invites Iran to take further measures to strengthen its cooperation with human rights bodies, as Chile believes that this cooperation must lead to specific commitments and the implementation of structural reforms that guarantee respect for human rights. Chile is convinced that there is no justice or democracy without gender equality. Therefore, Chile calls on Iran to take measures to ensure the protection of women's rights and to ensure women's equality within society. In this respect, Chile asks for steps to be



taken by the UNHRC as a priority in response to the conclusions presented in the latest reports, and how to ensure greater cooperation with the Iranian Government.

Taking note of the reports by the SR and the FFM, **Burkina Faso** once again laments mandates imposed upon countries in light of their mixed results or even lack of results. Burkina Faso believes that a balanced approach that sheds light on the progress achieved by states in the protection and promotion of human rights is essential for encouraging states to engage and cooperate more with the various human rights mechanisms. Burkina Faso invites the UNHRC to look at the negative consequences of UCMs which are just as detrimental to the Iranian population given the extent to which they undermine their basic human rights. While commending the multiple steps taken by Iran's authorities, which despite existing challenges have enabled positive changes in the human rights situation of Iran, Burkina Faso encourages Iran to continue its human rights protection and promotion efforts.

Thanking the SR and the FFM for their presentations, **Albania** notes that the human rights situation in Iran has not improved. Quite the contrary, we are seeing a clear deterioration and the picture is as follows. Arbitrary detentions, persecution and discrimination against minorities, be they ethnic or religious, violence against women and girls, the use of torture and killings of opposition members and violation of human rights defenders, a lack of an independent judiciary, the implementation of the death penalty including against minors and non-respect of international obligations. The reports of the SR and the FFM clearly document blatant human rights violations in Iran, whose concerns and conclusions are shared by Albania. The brutality of the Iranian authorities against their own people sadly continues and the lives of citizens is growing ever more difficult. Given the continuing human rights violations in Iran, Albania reiterates its support for the Iranian people and for the full respect of their fundamental freedoms and rights.

Belgium thanks the SR and the FFM for their reports which both demonstrate an ongoing disturbing pattern of gross human rights violations, repression and discrimination against the people of Iran. Belgium is appalled by the continued persecution of all those who stood up against the systemic repression of women and girls during the Women, Life, Freedom protests. Belgium urges the Iranian authorities to respect and guarantee the human rights of all Iranians, including women, girls and persons belonging to minorities. Belgium is alarmed by the continuing increase of the use of the death penalty with over 900 executions in 2024. It is further deeply worried by the gender dimension of the use of the death penalty as outlined both by the SR and the FFM. Pending a moratorium or abolishment, Belgium calls on Iran to limit capital punishment to the most serious crimes and to stop using the death penalty against juvenile offenders. Commending the SR's efforts to engage with the Iranian authorities, Belgium urges Iran to continue on this path, to grant access and fully cooperate with the FFM and Special Procedures.

Ghana observes that disagreements about the effectiveness of country-specific mandates adopted without the consent of the countries concerned continue to impact mandate holders in the discharge of their duties. In line with its principled position, Ghana reiterates its strong support for intergovernmental engagement and constructive dialogue as a means to foster mutual understanding, respect, and adherence to universally recognised human rights. This is particularly essential if we are to promote trust building with all stakeholders, especially the country concerned, and achieve meaningful progress in this entire spectrum of human rights. While acknowledging demonstrated efforts by the Iranian authorities to cooperate with UN



human rights mechanisms, including the UPR, Ghana further encourages them to continue to address the gaps required to foster a civil and political environment where every citizen can actively participate in the political, social, economic, and cultural life of the country. It is Ghana's expectation that through these efforts, Iran will be able to fulfil its international human rights obligations.

Last year, **Eritrea** voiced its deep concerns about the justification and the inherently political and selective nature of this country's specific mandate. In particular, Eritrea found it difficult to rationalise the need for two parallel mechanisms assigned to monitor the human rights situation in a single country. Eritrea is therefore surprised by renewed efforts this year to extend a mandate that has already concluded. These attempts appear to lack transparency and fairness, seemingly aimed at further isolating Iran through hostile mandates. Eritrea remains deeply concerned about recurring practises within the UNHRC, particularly the role played by certain actors in this regard. It is important to acknowledge that Iran has been cooperating constructively with the newly appointed SR and has demonstrated a commitment to the established framework of cooperation with OHCHR. The UNHRC must allow these positive developments to unfold in good faith. The current approach, however, sets a dangerous precedence at a time when the UNHRC's credibility is at a critical juncture. Eritrea calls for the immediate termination of the FFM and urges the UNHRC to refrain from pressuring and isolating states, thereby undermining the principles of fairness and cooperation.

The **Russian Federation** consistently rejects attempts to politicise human rights, which in the hands of the collective West have become a tool for exerting pressure on states who do not wish to follow a course being imposed upon them from abroad. Iran is a clear example of how under pseudo-humanistic pretexts Western countries continue to follow their long-standing course of destabilisation in inconvenient to them states, including by fomenting disorder and violence. In order to speed up this process, the illegitimate sanction regime against Iran has been toughened with serious humanitarian consequences. The maintenance of the sanctions clearly shows what Western statements about the concern of the rights of Iranians actually are worth. Russia believes that destructive approaches in relevant international structures, including the UNHRC, to be unacceptable. Russia is categorically against the politicised resolutions on Iran adopted by the UNHRC every year as these are disconnected from reality and have nothing to do with human rights protection. Russia believes that name-calling on political grounds merely discredits UN bodies. Moreover, those behind such steps have a notoriously far from perfect human rights record themselves.

China takes note of the reports presented, which is a gratuitous interference in internal affairs of Iran, and rejects such meddling. China has always been opposed to country-specific mechanisms when these are adopted without the country's consent and which are used to instrumentalise human rights. All the work done by the UNHRC ought to contribute to promoting dialogue and cooperation and to promoting human rights and preventing conflicts and confrontation. The exercise of human rights cannot be dissociated from the cultural, historic, and socio-political specificities of countries. China commends the efforts made by Iran in recent years to protect human rights, especially the rights of women, girls, and ethnic and religious minorities and refugees. China commends the fact that Iran has accepted recommendations under the UPR and is committed to dialogue and cooperation with human rights mechanisms.



China calls on the international community to respect Iran's sovereignty and to consider the human rights situation in an objective and just fashion. China is deeply concerned by the abusive use of UCMs by certain countries against Iran. These unilateral measures call into question the right to livelihood and development and other socio-economic rights in Iran. China urges the countries concerned to, without delay, lift these UCMs.

Greece expresses concern at the human rights situation in the country and the restrictions on the right to freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of peaceful assembly and association in Iran, as outlined by the SR. Regrettably, two and a half years after the protests began, women and girls in Iran continue to face systematic discrimination that permits all aspects of their lives, particularly with respect to the enforcement of the mandatory hijab. Moreover, according to the findings of the reports, religious and ethnic minorities face systemic discrimination including arbitrary detention, unfair trials and the disproportionate application of the death penalty. Unfortunately, the FFM found that obstacles to obtaining justice in Iran persist, including intimidation and threats against those seeking accountability in the judicial system. Greece welcomes the extension of both mandates and urges the Iranian authorities to cooperate with both mandates and to grant them access to the country.

Cuba states that today's reports on Iran reflect discriminatory and politicised and selective practises which, unfortunately, have been imposed within the UNHRC against countries of the Global South. Cuba reiterates its firm rejection of punitive mandates which are confrontational and meddling and partial in nature and when these are established, against the will of the State concerned. The mechanism imposed against Iran has proved to be irrelevant. It is a waste of limited human and financial resources, which the UNHRC has, and it has yielded no practical result. The only effective way of promoting human rights in all countries is through dialogue and cooperation on the basis of impartiality and mutual respect. The UNHRC cannot allow itself to become a tool for subverting the internal order of sovereign states. It is inadmissible that human rights are manipulated for geopolitical ends that have nothing to do with the mandate of this body. If there is genuine will to contribute to the human rights situation in Iran, then the first step ought to be the immediate end of UCMs which are imposed against Iran.

The **Lao PDR** commends the efforts made by the Government of Iran in the promotion and protection of human rights and its engagement with the UN human rights mechanism, including the fourth cycle of the UPR. The Lao PDR reiterates that the implementation of country-specific initiatives without the consent of the concerned state is counterproductive and duplicating mandates on one country involves a significant cost while the UN is today facing financial difficulties. The Lao PDR advocates for genuine dialogue and cooperation while avoiding any practise of selectivity and politicisation when addressing human rights issues in all countries.

In view of the continuing widespread and structural human rights violations in Iran, **Austria** expresses its full support for the extension of both mandates. Austria is deeply concerned by the findings of the ISR and the FFM, including the extraordinary increase in the number of executions in 2024, widespread discrimination against women, men and children, including on the basis of gender, ethnicity and or religion and or political belief, increased surveillance, further restrictions on digital space and the extension of repression beyond Iran's borders to silence those who speak out. Austria urges the Iranian authorities to halt all executions and immediately and unconditionally release all persons arbitrarily arrested and detained, cease traditional



harassment of protesters, victims and their families and repeal or amend discriminatory laws. While noting the recent engagement of the Government with OHCHR and the SR, Austria urges the Iranian authorities to co-operate fully with both mandates and to grant them access.

Thanking the SR and the FFM for their updates, **Ireland** notes that the findings clearly demonstrate the need for continued monitoring and reporting. Ireland urges Iran to cease discrimination against women and girls in legal frameworks which greatly limit the realisation of their rights. Ireland also calls for the removal of provisions related to criminalising women's dress choices. Ireland condemns the continued discrimination and oppression of minority groups in Iran, including religious minorities and especially those of the Baha'i faith, who face limits in realising the right to education and accessing legal representation. Ireland is also greatly concerned by the increased levels of detention and repression of Baha'i women. Ireland remains deeply concerned by the continued and extensive use of the death penalty in Iran. Furthermore, it reiterates its support for human rights defenders in Iran and those in exile who face serious threats to their security. Ireland calls for an end to all forms of transnational repression, including extrajudicial executions, and also calls upon the Government of Iran to co-operate fully with the SR and the FFM as well as to facilitate justice for all victims and survivors of human rights violations and abuses.

The **United Kingdom** stresses that the human rights situation in Iran continues to be appalling. Iran has bolstered its surveillance practises to target women and girls. The temporary suspension of the hijab and chastity bill is simply not enough. Iran must repeal mandatory veiling laws and permanently cease plans for mandatory citizen surveillance. Religious minorities continue to face systematic, systemic targeting and repression. The past year has seen an escalation in the arrest and detention of Baha'i women as authorities seek to suppress their religious identity and their autonomy as women. Executions have reached a critical level. Over 900 people were put to death last year, with an increasing number of them women. Many of them put to death following unfair trials and for offences that simply do not meet the most serious crimes threshold, and only 10% of those executions were publicly announced. It has been more than two years since the Iranian people took to the streets the call for Women, Life, Freedom. More than two years since the brutal crackdown on those nationwide protests. More than two years and accountability remains, sadly, a distant hope. The FFM has clearly stated investigations must continue. The UNHRC must not let impunity prevail. The Iranian people deserve justice.

Moldova is appalled by the reported rise in executions in 2024, including for offences that do not meet the thresholds of the most serious crimes. The imposition of death penalty on child offenders is of great concern. Moldova reiterates its call on the establishment of a moratorium on the death penalty with a view of its complete abolition. Remaining worried about the suppression of women and girls' rights as they are facing systemic discrimination, Moldova calls on the authorities to repeal discriminatory laws and end impunity for femicide and honour-related killings. Moldova is also concerned about the discrimination of religious and ethnic minorities. Reported intensified surveillance to silence any dissent that further extended beyond Iran's border is equally concerning. To conclude, while welcoming the engagement of Iran with the SR, Moldova reiterates its call for full and unhindered access to the country for both mandates.

Belarus states that the approaches of the country-specific Special Procedures of the UNHRC with respect to Iran continues to indicate that the Council is continuing to politicise for exerting



pressure on non-cooperation. In 2025, Iran successfully passed its UPR, demonstrating progress in shoring up legislative and institutional framework in protecting human rights, actively communicating with human rights mechanisms. Belarus welcomes the measures taken systemically by the Iranian government to support the population despite external sanctions and pressure. Belarus underscores that the goal of these country mechanisms appears to be to exert pressure on the country externally, including using illegal UCMs. This is a harmful practise which must stop. Belarus considers it necessary to objectively and unbiasedly assess the situation in the country, including the results of state mechanisms to investigate and render compensation, as well as the Iranian authorities voluntarily and actively helping human rights organisations.

Ukraine thanks the SR and the FFM for the crucial work in documenting widespread systematic and persistent human rights violations in Iran. Ukraine is deeply alarmed by the escalating use of the death penalty, particularly against women activists and human rights defenders. The Iranian authorities continue to target protesters, children, LGBTQ persons, and ethnic and religious minorities, using torture, mock executions, and intimidation to silence dissent. Moreover, Iran's repressive policies extend beyond its borders. Ukraine strongly condemns its supply of drones to Russia, which are used to attack Ukrainian civilians and critical infrastructure in violation of international law. Iran's complicity in Russia's war crimes in Ukraine underscores the urgent need for global action to hold Tehran accountable for both its internal repression and its destabilising role abroad. Ukraine therefore calls on Iran to cease its involvement in Russia's war crimes, uphold its international obligation, and grant full unrestricted access to the UN human rights Special Procedures, and fully cooperate with the FFM.

New Zealand thanks both the FFM for its update and the SR for her report. New Zealand reiterates its strong support for these critical accountability mechanisms, as well as its support for the brave Iranians calling for their fundamental human rights to be respected. New Zealand remains extremely concerned by the human rights situation in Iran, as documented in these updates today. The severe restrictions on the freedom of expression, violence and discrimination affecting women and girls, and ongoing repression of religious and ethnic minorities by Iranian authorities are particularly appalling. These actions constitute breaches of Iran's international human rights obligations. New Zealand is also alarmed by the surge in executions, which include protesters and minors, and once again calls on Iran to cease the practise of the death penalty. Finally, the ongoing lack of access granted to the SR and FFM is a major concern, and New Zealand urges the Iranian authorities to grant this access immediately. The SR and FFM must be allowed to carry out their mandated work without impediment.

Venezuela states that mandates imposed against sovereign countries leave no room for genuine dialogue and cooperation, which are fundamental pillars of the UNHRC's work. Interference in the domestic affairs of states in order to apply hostile mandates against countries without their consent are an abuse of the UNHRC and of the institution of human rights. It contravenes the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and do nothing to contribute to the cause of human rights. The accusations against Iran are based on politically motivated and biased statements without any verification and without taking into account the information published by the state in more than 60 reliable reports. The Islamic Republic of Iran is a steadfast defender of multilateralism and has shown its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights, including the right to development, by actively cooperating with the UNHRC and its mechanisms and the



various treaty bodies. Therefore, Venezuela supports Iran's efforts in favour of its people, despite the imposition of cruel UCMs that are illegal, imposed by the EU and the US. It is urgent to take an objective attitude, which is constructive and impartial, when looking at human rights situations wherever it be in the world, on the basis of the principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

France thanks the SR and the FFM for their reports which confirm the brutality of repression of the Women, Life, Freedom movement by the Iranian authorities, arresting and then killing Mahsa Amini on 16 September 2022. France also notes numerous crimes, which together are crimes against humanity. France lines up with the EU's statement and against the violent repression of women working for their freedom. France deplores the hardening of prosecutions against women defying the obligation to wear a hijab. Furthermore, France condemns the repression of journalists, researchers, human rights advocates, artists and so forth. It also deplores the executions of Iranians condemned to death after protesting, as well as surveillance beyond the country. France reiterates full support for both mandates and for them to be extended. It urges the Iranian authorities to cooperate with the SR and the FFM, which must be authorised to visit the country.

Niger takes note of the report of the FFM on the human rights situation in Iran. Niger reaffirms its strong commitment to human rights, but remains concerned by difficulties and challenges that remain in this area. Iran is a young country affected by an economic blockade and other restrictions that prevent the full enjoyment of human rights. Niger is appreciative of the efforts of the Iranian Government to continue to work to protect and promote human rights, notably through the National Committee put in place for investigations after 2022 and which has already organised a number of visits and meetings with victims, has allocated compensation and provided payment for medical care for those injured. To conclude, Niger invites the UNHRC to reinforce the principle of impartiality as well as transparency and dialogue and for understanding, regardless of the circumstances, acting in line with the principle of subsidiarity to take into account the accountability within the country.

Italy remains deeply concerned about the severe and ongoing human rights violations and repression of civil liberties in Iran, including unnecessary and disproportionate use of force against civilians, arbitrary arrest, torture and repression of all forms of dissent. Italy expresses great concern at the persistent discrimination in law and in practise against women and girls in public and private life, especially sexual and gender-based violence during arrest and in detention. Italy exhorts Iran to uphold women and girls' rights to freedom of expression and of peaceful assembly. Moreover, ethnic and religious minorities are still confronted by structural and unacceptable discrimination and persecution. Italy calls upon Iran to take the necessary measures to guarantee religious freedom and to ensure that all individuals are treated equally and exert their faith in peace and security. Italy reiterates its firm opposition to the use of capital punishment at all times and in any circumstances, and urges Iran to introduce a moratorium on execution, especially for crimes committed by minors, in view of a complete abolition. Italy remains steadfast in its support to the victims of human rights violations and reaffirms the universal importance of respecting freedom and dignity of every person.



Zimbabwe commends Iran for its steadfast commitment to effectively address the social and economic needs of its citizens and its persistence in safeguarding the human rights of its people. Iran has demonstrated commitment towards fulfilling its international human rights obligations through continued cooperation with the UNHRC and the other human rights mechanisms, including the UPR and the Special Procedures, despite relentless efforts to punish and isolate the country through continued imposition and tightening of UCMs, the endless issuance of negative statements, and the adoption of harmful resolutions. Zimbabwe is concerned by the continuation of the FFM without the consent of the Government of Iran. This initiative is not only costly, but could be counterproductive in terms of encouraging supporting the country to more effectively meet its human rights obligations. Zimbabwe urges the UNHRC to pursue a path of constructive dialogue and cooperation that upholds the principles of non-selectivity, objectivity, impartiality, sovereignty, and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states.

Sri Lanka continuously opposes country-specific initiatives introduced in the UNHCR without the consent of the country concerned as they undermine the spirit of cooperation required in genuinely promoting and protecting human rights. Such measures are also confrontational, counterproductive, and do not help to achieve advancements in human rights in any country. Genuine dialogue and mutual respect are required in realising the objectives of the UNHRC and to promote and protect human rights universally without politicisation and selectivity. Sri Lanka reiterates its firm position that the principles of sovereign equality, respect for territorial integrity, and non-interference in the internal affairs of any country should guide the work of the UNHRC. Sri Lanka therefore encourages the UNHRC to engage constructively with the Government of Iran in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation in advancing the human rights of its people.

Mali thanks the SR and the FFM for the reports on the human rights situation in the country. Mali takes this opportunity to congratulate Iran for the continued efforts to protect and promote human rights as corroborated during the UPR in January 2025. Malis also would like to hail the constant availability of Iran for dialogue and cooperation in respect of the principles of impartiality, objectivity, transparency and non-selectivity. To conclude, Mali remains convinced that instrumentalising and politicising human rights policies as well as double standards of certain states are counterproductive and should be banished forever from the UNHRC.

Oman commends the progress of Iran in the field of human development, especially economic and social rights. Oman commends the progress made in the fields of health and education, in addition to initiatives aimed at empowering women and upholding the rule of law. Oman also commends the openness of Iran in holding bilateral talks on matters of human rights. This enhances mutual understanding and experience sharing. Oman encourages the Islamic Republic of Iran to continue the efforts made in this field to uphold sustainable development, social justice in a manner that abides by its international commitments.

Cambodia acknowledges Iran's efforts in cooperating with human rights mechanisms and OHCHR, as well as its British party, to fulfil the international obligations to promote human rights in the country. Cambodia encourages Iran to further its efforts and constructive engagement with the UN entities and other stakeholders in promoting the human rights of its citizens, including women's rights. Finally, Cambodia reiterates the enduring strength of all human rights mechanisms lie even-handed approaches with transparency, objectivity, and impartiality, as well



as in full adherence to the principles of sovereign equality and non-interference in internal affairs as stated in the UN Charter.

Burundi strongly believes in universality, objectivity, and non-selectivity in handling human rights issues, as enshrined in Resolution 60/251 of the General Assembly, which establishes the UNHRC. It is only with the consent of the state concerned that we can work without being counterproductive, otherwise, we harm human rights instead of promoting them. Burundi highly appreciates the commitment demonstrated by Iran to cooperate with the UNHRC and its mechanisms, most notably the UPR, which has already demonstrated its validity and which remains the unique and only exercise for all states for peer assessment, but also through Iran's cooperation with UN treaty bodies, as most recently in the case of the Committee for the Eradication of Racial Discrimination at its 113th session. Burundi encourages the Islamic Republic of Iran in its various initiatives already undertaken to shore up human rights and reaffirm the primacy of its responsibility as a state in the area of protecting and promoting human rights.

Canada remains deeply concerned by the continuing deterioration of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, as detailed in the latest reports of the SR and the FFM. Canada is appalled by the range and severity of human rights violations carried out by Iranian authorities, as well as the increase in executions, including of women and children. Canada remains seized of the ongoing persecution and structural discrimination of religious and ethnic minorities, notably the Baha'is, the Baluchis, and the Kurds. Civic space continues to shrink, and human rights defenders worldwide are targeted. Allegations of transnational repression cannot be ignored if we wish to advance respect for human rights, protect our democracies, and uphold the rule of law. Women and girls continue to face blatant and persistent repression, including through the violent application of compulsory hijab laws. Canada notes the temporary pause in the promulgation of the law on protecting the family through the promotion of the culture of chastity and hijab, and call for this law to be permanently and fully repealed. Canada supports the renewal of the SR's and the FFM's complementary and distinct mandates. Canada thanks the FFM for preserving evidence following the Women, Life, Freedom protests, and welcomes the mandate's expansion moving forward. Deep-rooted impunity and the lack of effective mechanisms for transparency and accountability in Iran are unacceptable.

Argentina understands that it is crucial that Iran can promote all of the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the human rights treaties for all of its citizens without discrimination. In particular, Argentina would like to see guaranteed in the fullest sense freedom of worship and expression for all persons in respect to fundamental freedoms to take part in public and political life, and for legal provisions that affect these rights to be repealed. Argentina would also like to see necessary measures taken in order to end all systemic direct and indirect discrimination against women and girls. In particular, work should be done on eradicating all forms of physical violence or any justification of violence, whatever the form this violence might take. Argentina further underscores the need for Iran to ratify the International Convention on Protection of All Persons Against Enforced Disappearances and the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatments. Argentina calls on Iran to step up its cooperation and collaboration regarding the severe terrorist attacks that our country suffered, as was the case of the attack on the Embassy of Israel, which occurred 33 years ago yesterday, and also the attack in 1994, which took the lives of 85 persons and wounded 300 others.



Ethiopia believes that multilateral forums, including the UNHRC, play a vital role in fostering collaboration among states to fulfil their human rights obligations. To this end, Ethiopia strongly advocates for constructive engagement, cooperation, and mutual understanding in the promotion of human rights globally. In this light, Ethiopia commends Iran for its ongoing efforts to improve the human rights situation for its citizens. Ethiopia commends Iran for its participation in the UPR mechanisms and the implementation of accepted recommendations. Ethiopia remains committed to the principles of universality, objectivity, and non-selectivity. In this context, Ethiopia expresses concern over the selectivity and politicisation of human rights, as well as the use of double standards, recognising that such approaches hinder meaningful progress in the protection and promotion of human rights. In conclusion, Ethiopia emphasises the importance of enhancing cooperation with the states, complementing their national efforts, and focussing on mechanisms that foster constructive dialogue is beneficial to the long-standing efforts to ensure protection of human rights.

Sudan takes note of the reports on the situation of human rights in Iran. Upholding human rights at the national level is the responsibility of the concerned state. It alone knows its priorities. Sudan encourages Iran to continue its efforts in the promotion of human rights, including legal reform and protecting vulnerable groups such as women and children. Iran underwent the UPR mechanism and mentioned legal reforms. These are welcome efforts, including training of law enforcement officers and judges. Sudan has also noted Iran's progress in human development. Sudan believes that the promotion of human rights is a continuing matter. No state is free from further progress. Sudan believes each country should be capable of choosing its own priorities.

Views Expressed by intergovernmental Organizations

The **European Union** thanks the SR and the FFM for their reports. Unfortunately, as both lay out, the human rights situation in Iran remains dire. Two and a half years after the Women, Life, Freedom protests, women and girls continue to face systematic repression and discrimination. The reports clearly demonstrate widespread and structural human rights violations. The repression of freedom of opinion and expression continues to be concerning and we call upon the Iranian authorities to guarantee all human rights. Arbitrary arrests and the use of torture remain a major concern. The EU calls on Iran to stop arbitrary detentions, including of foreign citizens and dual nationals held for political gains, and to release all unjustly detained individuals. The EU strongly opposes the use of death penalty under all circumstances. The EU is particularly concerned about the dramatic rise in executions, with reportedly at least 901 people last year. The use of capital punishment as a response to domestic dissent is unacceptable. While welcoming recent engagement with OHCHR, as well as with the SR, the EU urges Iran to cooperate with both mandates and fully supports their extension.

Views Expressed by Non-Governmental Organizations

Justice for Iran stresses that the FFM's report recognises the commission of crimes against humanity of murder, imprisonment, torture, rape, persecution, and enforced disappearance against women, LGBTQ persons, and ethnic and religious minorities. This acknowledgement not only validates the suffering of thousands of victims, but also paves the way for justice both for the victims and for Iranian society as a whole. Their responsibility now lies with the international community to take concrete steps toward accountability. Justice for Iran strongly supports the



FFM's recommendation to establish an independent body to continue investigating past and ongoing serious human rights violations in Iran, as well as their root causes. This mandate must be inclusive of all victims, including LGBTQ persons who remain among the most marginalised and persecuted groups in Iran. As the FFM's report makes clear, all paths to justice within Iran are closed. Justice for Iran therefore calls on the international community to activate all available international, regional, and domestic accountability mechanisms, including universal jurisdiction and corporate human rights responsibility, to ensure that the human rights violators do not take what is free. Such action is crucial in preventing future atrocities.

While appreciating the FFM's report, **Maryam Ghasemi Educational Charity Institute** voices the issue of systematic and institutional gender discrimination. The presence of the speaker at the UNHRC as one of the millions of educated and capable women, as an attorney at law and university professor, is itself evidence of the Government's legal and directing policies aimed at improving women's access to education, professional empowerment, and employment, often accompanied by positive action measures. In paragraph 7 of the report, the SR highlights a paradox between the development index and progress in gender equality. However, in paragraph 65, the SR acknowledges Iran's leading position in women's education and empowerment, as well as its remarkable advance in health, despite challenges. Furthermore, in paragraph 66, the SR refers to the Government's supportive policies aimed at increasing women's participation in managerial and decision-making levels. Given the documented process and objective indicators mentioned in the report, the speaker asks if the claim of systematic gender discrimination does contradict these tangible achievements.

The **Baha'i International Community** describes a scene whereby a woman sits in a cemetery, holding the shattered pieces of her son's gravestone in her hands. This is the last traces left of his memory. His grave has been desecrated, his remains removed with disrespect. Why? Because she is a Baha'i, as was her son. After years of persecution faced by her family only for being Baha'is, prison, expulsion from university, denial of employment, and exclusion in all areas of life, now even in death, her son is not spared. Her family's grief is doubled by the indignity imposed on his only physical remains. The Baha'is in Iran, the largest religious minority, are denied not only the right to live as citizens, but even the right to die in peace, a ruthlessness the Iranian Government justifies by labelling them as apostates. Today, the Baha'i International Community asks the Iranian Government, what threat do the dead pose to society? How does it justify its acts in its conscience, knowing that even in death it does not leave Baha'is alone, imposing brutality on them, even in their grief? No religious or cultural norm could ever support such cruelty. The FFM in its report documented an increase in the persecution against religious minorities. The Baha'i community, a long-suffering group, is one such example. The FFM and any future mechanism must hold Iran accountable for its four-decade inhumane treatment of Baha'is, which will forever remain a stain on the Islamic Republic's recorded history.

Abshar Atefeha Charity Institute is a NGO that has been actively working for over two decades to alleviate poverty and deprivation in underprivileged areas. One major challenge for this charity and the communities itself is unilateral sanctions, which have significantly hindered empowerment in underprivileged areas. In the healthcare sector, sanctions have limited the import of medicines, medical equipment, and treatment technologies. In the infrastructure sector, sanctions have reduced investments in vital projects, such as road construction, water



supply, and electrification. In the education sector, reduced educational budgets and restricted access to resources such as laboratory equipment and educational technologies have lowered the quality of children's education and increased dropout rates among students in deprived areas. Due to the significant impact of sanctions, which severely violate the fundamental human rights of citizens and lead to humanitarian crises for vulnerable populations, Abshar Atefeh Charity urges Special Procedures to draw attention to the harmful effects of these sanctions on the human rights of Iranian citizens and take serious actions to lift these illegal sanctions.

United Nations Watch asks how much more blood needs to be spilled before the world acts. For 46 years, Iran has ruled by terror, and the FFM has revealed only the tip of the iceberg. Today, UN Watch speaks for those who cannot. For the women in Iran who set their headscarves on fire in protest only to be met with bullets, for the men who demand freedom only to be silenced with torture, for the children who realise that their opinion can be a death sentence. The name Mahsa Amini still echoes in our hearts. She was one of many arrested, beaten, murdered. This terror is not only contained within Iran's borders. Today, murderers hired by Iran stand trial in Europe and the United States for plots to assassinate Iranian activists. To the world, silence is complicity. To the UNHRC, words of condemnation are not enough. Iranians need protection. They need accountability. They need justice. If the UNHRC cannot defend the persecuted, it risks becoming a stage for the oppressors. The Iranian people are shouting Women, Life, Freedom. Their fight is our fight, and we must not fail them.

The **International Yazidis Foundation for the Prevention of Genocide** and the Kurdistan Human Rights Association in Geneva strongly welcome the report's findings and conclusions of the FFM on Iran and the SR on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Foundation echoes the situation of Kurdish people and other minorities, including Baluch, Awazi Arab Turkmen, and Azerbaijani Turks. Only in the 12 months of 2024, at least 970 prisoners were executed in Iran. Over 40% of them are Kurdish and Baluch citizens, while they make up only 20% of Iranian populations. Ms. Pakhshan Azizi, a Kurdish humanitarian aid who helped Yazidi refugees in Iraq and Syria, with Ms. Wrisha (Varisheh) Moradi, another Kurdish political prisoner, as well as Ms. Sharifeh Mohammadi, a labour activist, are at imminent risk of execution. Last year, over 700 Kurdish and Baluch border workers were also blindly killed or injured by Iranian border officials. The persecution of Kurdish civil and cultural activists continues dramatically. Ms. Zahra Mohammadi and her colleagues from the Nozhin Socio-Cultural are facing unfair trials and arbitrary detentions. Finally, given the ongoing commission of crimes against humanity in Iran, the Foundation strongly urges the UNHRC to renew the mandate of the SR and to extend the FFM on Iran with a broader mandate.

The **Institute for Protection of Women's Rights** states that respect for cultural diversity is a recognised human rights principle that emphasises the importance of understanding, valuing and preserving the traditions, manifestations and cultural identities of individuals and communities. Among these cultural manifestations, Iranian women's modest dress is considered a symbol of identity, tradition and ancient cultural heritage. It is worth noting that Iranian society consists of a diverse collection of cultures, religions and ethnic groups, each of which has had its own distinct form of dress code throughout history. This indicates that in Iran, the modest dress is deeply intertwined with cultural and religious contexts. Respect for cultural diversity is a fundamental step toward recognising and upholding the dignity and rights of women. It also



provides a foundation for fostering constructive interactions among societies while acknowledging cultural differences. The Institute urges Special Procedures mandate holders to approach the issue of hijab with a deep understanding of cultural and historical diversity. It is expected that, in pursuit of an accurate understanding of Iran's customs and prevailing culture, they actively engage with civil society. In doing so, they should avoid adopting a singular interpretation of Iranian women's hijab and instead promote a more interactive and constructive dialogue on the subject.

Minority Rights Group (MRG) and Baluchistan Human Rights Group strongly welcome the FFM's landmark finding on crimes against humanity committed against minority communities as distinct persecuted groups. These conclusions, along with the FFM's roadmap for justice and equality, provide long-overdue validation of minority experiences in Iran and reaffirm the urgent need for the UNHRC to address the structural discrimination fuelling these crimes. As the FFM rightly outlines, the persecution of ethnic and religious minorities predates and extends beyond the Women, Life, Freedom movement. MRG is deeply concerned by the state's persistent campaign to silence dissent and the ongoing impunity for perpetrators, which indicates a high risk of recurrent violence. Domestic measures on accountability remain insufficient, while efforts to access justice are obstructed by persistent threats, surveillance, intimidation, and violence against victims and those acting on their behalf. MRG calls on the UNHRC to ensure continued investigations into serious human rights violations and atrocity crimes in Iran. Investigative mechanisms must have broader mandate and temporal scope than the FFM to monitor abuses beyond the September 2022 protests and ensure comprehensive accountability.

Frontline - The International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders stresses that Defending human rights in Iran is a life-threatening act. Human rights defenders and writers are imprisoned, physically and psychologically abused, subjected to solitary confinement, reoccurring sentences, and denied medical care. Recently, a court reinstated a death sentence against labour rights defender Ms. Sharifeh Mohammadi. Mr. Ahmad Reza Haeri was sentenced to seven years, including for protesting the death penalty. Ms. Golrokh Iraee is serving five years for speaking out against the protestor killings. Ms. Vida Rabbani is imprisoned for independent journalism, and student rights defender Mr. Sayed Ziaoddin Nabavi faces new sentences. Other human rights defenders face health issues in prison. Mr. Mohammad Reza Faghihi, lawyer, is serving five years for defending women's rights. Ms. Reza Khandan is again behind bars for protesting the compulsory hijab. Since 2021, Frontline Defenders has documented at least 13 killings of human rights defenders. Iran remains in the top two countries globally that jail writers, with a dramatic increase following the 2022 protest. Frontline Defenders calls on the UNHRC to urge Iranian authorities to unconditionally release all human rights defenders and writers and stop reprisals against them and abolish the death penalty and ensure adequate medical care provided in custody.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) makes a statement developed in collaboration with the Network of Iranian Women's Rights Activists. WILPF appreciates the FFM for its invaluable investigation into the grave systematic and widespread violations since the Women, Rights, Freedom uprising, many of which amount to crime against humanity. WILPF also appreciates that the SR has highlighted the gender-specific dimensions of the human rights violations. It strongly deplores Iran's lack of meaningful engagement with the FFM and the SR.



Death sentences and executions have risen at an alarming rate among those at risk of execution. WILPF urges the overturn of the wrongful convictions and the immediate release of WILPF's women's rights activists Pakhshan Azizi, Wrisha (Varisheh) Moradi, and Sharifeh Mohammadi. Furthermore, WILPF calls for an end to the harassment and targeting of women activists. New laws severely persecute women and girls who continue to be subject to systematic and institutionalised discrimination, violence and femicide. The perpetrators of killings and acts of violence as well as those ordering them continue to operate with impunity. Meanwhile, the family members of those killed along with survivors who now live with disabilities caused by injuries have faced arrest, repression and the loss of their entire livelihood.

FACTS & FIGURES ON ID PARTICIPATION

47 State Delegations

1 Inter-Governmental Organization

10 Non-Governmental Organizations