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## ORAL STATEMENT

35th special session of the Human Rights Council on the deteriorating situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

24 November 2022

به نام خدای رنگین کمان -- “In the name of the God of Rainbows” -- is how 10-year-old **Kian Pirfalak** started his video for a school project, capturing the hope of Iran’s children for a brighter future. Kian is one of at least 43 children unlawfully killed by Iran’s security forces since mid-September.

I spend my days speaking with normal people in Iran. Their stories, however, are not normal.

Imagine that security forces kill your child. Then they threaten to kill your remaining children if you speak out. Or, that they will arrest, prosecute, and sexually assault you. This is the reality for relatives of children like Hasti Naraoui, Sarina Esmailzadeh, Amir Mehdi Farrokipour, and Nika Shakarami.

Iranian authorities talk here in Geneva of restraint and de-escalation. Killing more than 300 victims is not restraint. Seeking to execute protesters is not de-escalation. We echo the findings of the UN Secretary General and the UN Special Rapporteur on Iran regarding structural impunity in Iran.

Before security forces killed him, Artin Rahmani wrote to his mother, “I am deeply sorry, but I want to step onto a path which perhaps means you will not see me grow up.” He was 16.

People in Iran are risking their lives and liberty to demand their rights. They expect this Council to support them and establish a meaningful investigative mechanism. Such a step is not just essential, it is long over-due.