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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ORAL STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE REVIEW OF IRAN BY THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE 9 OCTOBER 2023

-TO BE CHECKED AGAINST DELIVERY-

Honourable Committee members,

Amnesty International has detailed in its submission to the Committee a decade of widespread violations of Iran's obligations under the ICCPR.

These include the execution of more than 5,000 individuals, including at least 57 who were children at the time of the alleged crime between 1 January 2012 and 31 July 2023; the unlawful killing of hundreds of unarmed protesters and bystanders including scores of children during protests; the unlawful killing of hundreds of unarmed Kurdish cross-border couriers (*kulbars*) and Baluchi fuel porters (*soukhtbar*); and the death in custody of hundreds of prisoners following torture or other ill-treatment.

Torture continues to be widespread and include floggings and beatings; prolonged solitary confinement; deliberate denial of healthcare; electric shocks; suspensions; forced administration of drugs; waterboarding; mock executions and sexual violence.

Since Iran's last review, authorities have arbitrarily arrested tens of thousands for peacefully exercising their human rights; and have systematically subjected those arrested to arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture or other ill-treatment, and unfair trial leading to harsh prison sentences or the death penalty.

Victims include protesters, human rights defenders, journalists, lawyers, students, dissidents, artists, dual nationals, LGBTI people, bereaved relatives demanding accountability, and members of ethnic and religious minorities.

Members of religious minorities have also suffered confiscation of property; raids or demolitions of their places of worship or cemeteries; and bans or restrictions on access to political office, education, employment and child adoption. In May 2023, authorities executed two men for "apostasy".

To continue the list of horrors, the authorities carried out hundreds of flogging sentences, amputated the fingers, hands or feet of at least 41 men, and sentenced multiple individuals to blinding.

Authorities treat women as second-class citizens, including in relation to divorce, child custody, employment, inheritance and political office. Millions of Iranian women and girls have suffered daily

abuse as a result of discriminatory and degrading compulsory veiling laws.

The authorities continue to commit the crime against humanity of enforced disappearance by concealing the fate and whereabouts of thousands of political dissidents who were forcibly disappeared and extrajudicially executed in secret in 1988. Mass gravesites containing the remains of the victims have faced destruction. Many officials who should be investigated for these crimes against humanity, including the president, Ebrahim Raisi, not only enjoy impunity, but also hold positions of power.

We urge the Committee to highlight this crisis of systemic impunity and call on Iran to cooperate with the UN Fact-Finding Mission and other UN experts and allow them unfettered access to the country to investigate.

I thank you.