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## ORAL STATEMENT

### Item 4: Interactive Dialogue with the Fact-Finding Mission on Iran

UN Human Rights Council

55<sup>th</sup> session

26 February – 5 April 2024

Mr. President,

“The official took the whip... [and] started striking my back, buttocks, and thighs... I did not count the number of lashes... Under my breath, I recited ‘in the name of woman, in the name of life’”.

These are the words of Roya Heshmati who was recently flogged in where she called a “medieval torture chamber” for walking unveiled in Tehran.

Make no mistake: the situation in Iran is worse than it was a year ago. Authorities are going to great lengths to silence and repress those who are claiming their rights.

Women and girls are suffering intensifying persecution for defying mandatory hijab laws. Authorities target them with mass surveillance, floggings, imprisonment, car confiscations and compulsory “morality” classes.

Iran’s authorities have not only unlawfully killed hundreds of protesters, but punish their relatives for mourning their deaths and seeking justice. Survivors of rape and other torture suffer in silence, fearing rearrest and further harm if they seek accountability.

The Fact-Findings Mission’s findings -- that the authorities have committed crimes against humanity of murder, imprisonment, torture, rape and other forms of sexual violence, persecution, enforced disappearance and other inhumane acts, as part of a widespread and systematic attack directed against women and girls and others expressing support for human rights -- must spur international action.

This Council should allow the Mission more time to complete its work to document mass crimes under international law and preserve evidence effectively. This is vital for tackling the crisis of systemic impunity that has fueled cycles of deadly repression in Iran.

We also urge the Council to enable the Special Rapporteur on Iran to continue his critical, and at times life-saving, monitoring, reporting, and engagement.

Could the Fact-Finding Mission please elaborate on actions that states can and should take to support the rights of survivors of rape and other torture to justice and reparation?

Thank you, Mr. President.