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ORAL STATEMENT

Item 4: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Islamic Republic of Iran

UN Human Rights Council
Forty-third session
24 February – 20 March 2020

Madam President,

The worsening human rights situation in Iran requires urgent and ongoing attention, and continued monitoring and documentation by the Special Rapporteur.

The authorities have continued to suppress the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

In recent months, Iran's security forces have crushed peaceful protests using unlawful, including lethal, force. In November 2019, in an unprecedented crackdown, they killed more than 300 protesters and bystanders and injured and arbitrarily arrested thousands of others, according to credible reports received by Amnesty International.

Torture and other ill-treatment, including through the denial of medical care, remain widespread.

The authorities systematically violate defendants' fair trial rights, including through the denial of access to a lawyer at the investigation stage.

Women face entrenched discrimination in family and criminal law contexts. Women's rights defenders campaigning against discriminatory forced veiling laws are serving lengthy prison terms.

Authorities continue to execute individuals who were under the age of 18 at the time of the crime.

For these reasons, we urge states to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and we urge the Iranian authorities to co-operate with the mandate.

Madam President,

We ask the Special Rapporteur what steps Iran should take to address violations and crimes seen in the context of repressing recent protests, and what role the Human Rights Council could play to address this situation?

Madam President,

Thank you.