

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

12 March 2020 Index number: MDE 13/1978/2020

# IRAN: HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ADOPTS UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OUTCOME

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review on the Islamic Republic of Iran on 12 March 2020 during its 43rd session. The below is Amnesty International's statement on the outcome prior to the adoption of the report of the review. The statement was not delivered in the session as the organization took the decision to protect its staff from the COVID 19 pandemic and to ensure it actively contributes to minimizing spread of the virus. Amnesty International also contributed to the information basis of the UPR review through its submission on Iran.<sup>1</sup>

### ORAL STATEMENT

Iran continues to heavily suppress the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. In November 2019, one week after Iran's UPR session was held before this Council, Iran's security forces used unlawful force to kill more than 300 protesters and bystanders, including children, according to credible reports received by Amnesty International.<sup>2</sup> They also injured and arbitrarily arrested thousands of others.<sup>3</sup>

We therefore urge Iran to reconsider its rejection of recommendations to guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly and take immediate steps to protect these rights.<sup>4</sup>

Torture and other ill-treatment, including through the denial of medical care, are widespread and committed with impunity. We welcome Iran's acceptance of some recommendations to ensure freedom from torture and access to adequate medical care for prisoners<sup>5</sup> and urge their rapid implementation. However, we regret Iran's rejection of concrete recommendations to end the use of torture and ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Amnesty International, *Iran: Failing on all fronts: Amnesty International submission for the UN Universal Periodic Review, 34th session of the UPR working group*, 20 June 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/0573/2019/en/>

<sup>2</sup> Amnesty International, *Iran: Death toll from bloody crackdown on protests rises to 208*, 2 December 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/12/iran-death-toll-from-bloody-crackdown-on-protests-rises-to-208/>

<sup>3</sup> Amnesty International, *Iran: Thousands arbitrarily detained and at risk of torture in chilling post-protest crackdown*, 16 December 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/12/iran-thousands-arbitrarily-detained-and-at-risk-of-torture-in-chilling-post-protest-crackdown/>

<sup>4</sup> UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Iran, UN Doc. A/HRC/43/12 recommendations 26.149 (United States of America), 26.150 (Austria), 26.152 (Israel), 26.155 (Switzerland), 26.158 (Chile), 26.159 (Czechia), 26.160 (Spain), 26.164 (Israel), 26.166 (Netherlands), 26.168 (Norway), 26.179 (Lithuania).

<sup>5</sup> A/HRC/43/12, recommendations 26.142 (Canada), 26.145 (Austria), 26.146 (Malta), 26.147 (Norway), 26.197 (Algeria), 26.198 (Bhutan).

<sup>6</sup> A/HRC/43/12, recommendations 26.8 (Togo), (Czechia), 26.9 (Republic of Moldova) (Estonia) (Denmark), 26.10 (Seychelles), 26.16 (Luxembourg), 26.17 (North Macedonia), 26.18 (Albania), 26.19 (Austria), 26.21 (Germany), 26.24 (Latvia), 26.31 (Poland), 26.138 (Ukraine), 26.139 (United States of America), 26.144 (Greece).

Given the entrenched discrimination suffered by Iranian women and girls, we are also dismayed at Iran's rejection of recommendations to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.<sup>7</sup>

There are systematic violations of fair trial rights. We urge Iran to take immediate steps to implement recommendations it has accepted to guarantee fair trial rights, including access to freely chosen legal counsel.<sup>8</sup>

Authorities continue to execute individuals who were under the age of 18 at the time of the crime. We urge Iran to reconsider its rejection of recommendations to abolish the death penalty for such individuals.<sup>9</sup>

Finally, we regret there were no recommendations from States on addressing the crimes against humanity arising from the ongoing enforced disappearances resulting from mass secret extrajudicial executions of 1988. We recall with grave concern that the systematic concealment of the fate and whereabouts of the victims and destruction of mass graves believed to contain the remains of the victims is causing pain and suffering to the families of the victims.<sup>10</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> A/HRC/43/12 recommendations 26.6 (Republic of Moldova) (Estonia) (Burundi) (Kenya) (Czechia) (Bahrain), 26.7 (Ecuador), 26.10 (Seychelles), 26.11 (Togo) (Uganda), (Burkina Faso), 26.12 (Croatia), 26.14 (Spain), 26.16 (Luxembourg), 26.17 (North Macedonia), 26.19 (Austria), 26.21 (Germany), 26.24 (Latvia), 26.28 (Slovenia), 26.239 (Thailand), 26.247 (Mexico).

<sup>8</sup> A/HRC/43/12, recommendations 26.170 (Switzerland), 26.172 (Bahrain), 26.178 (Germany).

<sup>9</sup> A/HRC/43/12, recommendations 26.98 (Switzerland), 26.102 (Ukraine), 26.103 (Belgium), 26.109 (Austria), 26.115 (Czechia), 26.116 (Denmark), 26.117 (Estonia), 26.121 (Germany), 26.134 (Sweden), 26.136 (North Macedonia), 26.98 (Switzerland), 26.101 (Republic of Moldova), 26.103 (Belgium), 26.111 (Canada), 26.125 (Ireland), 26.135 (New Zealand), 26.137 (Norway).

<sup>10</sup> Amnesty International, *Iran: Blood-soaked secrets: why Iran's 1988 prison massacres are ongoing crimes against humanity*, 4 December 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/9421/2018/en/>