

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) –ADD.1

FINLAND

- In its national report the Islamic Republic of Iran notes that the drafting committee of the report has consulted civil society actors and taken note of the views of civil society representatives as such. Could you elaborate on the process and methodology of this consultation and provide more information about the civil society actors that were consulted?
- In relation to its 2010 UPR the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterated the standing invitation to the Special Procedures and announced that it was organizing new missions, including the visit of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, scheduled for 2011. What steps is the Government taking to enhance its cooperation with the High Commissioner and the Special Procedures and to realize the visits requested?
- Is the Islamic Republic of Iran planning to amend or repeal laws, including provisions of the Penal and Civil Codes, which discriminate against women and girls?

GERMANY

- What measures is Iran taking to ensure universal school education for children, to improve school enrolment rates among children belonging to Nomadic communities and to prevent early school drop out of girls among ethnic minorities and in rural areas of the country?
- Treaty bodies and human rights organizations have raised the issue of religious discrimination and public incitement to hatred and violence on grounds of religion or belief. What steps is Iran taking to prevent such discrimination, including with regard to job restrictions experienced by persons belonging to certain religious minorities, such as the Bahai and Sunni Muslims? What is done to counter and prevent incitement to hatred and violence? How does Iran ensure the freedom of religion or belief for persons belonging to religious communities not explicitly recognized in the Iranian Constitution, including with regard to the freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest one's religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching?

NORWAY

- In the period from 2010 until 2014, Iran has carried out seven confirmed executions where the offender was a minor when the criminal act was committed one of which in 2014. Will the Iranian Government abolish the death penalty for crimes committed by persons when they were under the age of 18?
- Iran is amongst the countries in the world that imprisons the largest number of journalists. According to Reporters without Borders (RWB) 65 journalists are currently in prison (figures from July 2014). This includes ten women, making Iran the country in the world that has the highest number of incarcerated female journalists. What will the Iranian Government do to ensure the freedom of the press and reduce the high number of journalists' presently in prison?
- According to paragraph 36 and 37 of the National Report, the Iranian Constitution stresses the importance of the principles of fair prosecution and the presumption of innocence. It also states that individuals who have been arrested have "the right to defense". Norway is concerned with what seems to be a widespread use of arbitrary detention of human rights defenders and civil society activists, as well as restrictions with regard to their access to legal counsel. What will Iran do to ensure in law and practice all guarantees of due process of law established in the ICCPR, and that all citizens, including human rights defenders, are given fair and transparent trials, as well as unobstructed access to legal counsel throughout all phases of criminal investigation, in accordance with the rights awarded them in the Iranian Constitution and Criminal Procedure Code?
- After the last round of the UPR in 2010 Iran accepted Italy's recommendation to "Fully guarantee the right to freedom of expression, press and political activity, including through the adoption of concrete measures aimed at the implementation of articles 24, 25, 26 and 27 of the Iranian Constitution". What steps will the Iranian Government take to ensure the full implementation of articles 24-27 of the Iranian Constitution?
- Norway is concerned about the use of public executions, which is often carried out in the presence of children. Will Iran consider a moratorium on this practice?
- What is Iran doing to ensure that no one in detention can be tortured, regardless of their perceived or professed sexual orientation or gender identity?

SLOVENIA

- What activities and/or recommendations have been undertaken by the President's special assistant for ethnic groups and religious minorities with regard to protecting and upholding the rights of the Baha'i?

- We would like the Iranian delegation to elaborate upon enforcement of provisions of the Act to Combat Human Trafficking with regard to women and children?

SWEDEN

- What kind of measures does the Government intend to take to remedy the reported situation of discrimination of ethnic and religious minorities, including arbitrary detention, exclusion of Baha'is from higher education and government employment, as well as governmental interference in Baha'is private employment?
- How does the President and the new administration intend to fulfill the promises made during the presidential election campaign and after, on more freedom, less censorship and in their own words, less of a security-oriented atmosphere?
- Is there a plan to turn promises into action regarding the situation for individual journalists, media in general and the filtering of Internet and social media; is there any cooperation between the administration and other authorities of the Iranian political system, such as the judiciary?
- What are the administration's intentions when it comes to international cooperation on human rights; does Iran intend to engage in dialogue on the matter with relevant international parties, such as the Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights or the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran?

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- According to credible reports, government security forces continue to torture and abuse detainees and prisoners. The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran has reported endemic physical abuse such as beatings, burns, and electric shocks, as well as psychological abuse, including mock executions, threats against detainees' family members, and threats of rape and other forms of torture. Other commonly reported methods of abuse in prisons involve rape, sexual humiliation, and sleep deprivation. When will the Iranian government allow the UN Special Rapporteur to visit Iran and access detention facilities?
- We are concerned about reports that journalists in Iran have been harassed, threatened, or experienced violence. We are deeply concerned about the on-going detention, with no charges, of American journalist Jason Rezaian. Will the Iranian government commit to protect journalists and create an environment where the press can freely operate? When will the Iranian government release Mr. Rezaian?
- The UN Secretary-General has reported that the judiciary has ordered the blocking of many websites and social media platforms. Authorities also target human rights lawyers and activists, commonly charging them with vaguely defined national security and propaganda charges. When will the Iranian government allow freedom of expression and unfettered internet access?

- There are continued reports of people imprisoned for their religious beliefs, including cases of some who died while in custody. Christian pastor Saeed Abedini remains in prison, having been detained since September 2012 and sentenced to eight years on charges related to his religious beliefs. How is the Iranian government working to end its practice of jailing individuals for practicing their faith?
- There are continued reports of Iranian government harassment of members of religious minorities, including the Baha'i community. What is the Iranian government doing to protect the human rights of Baha'i followers – including the right to freedom of religion or belief – and release their leaders from prison, and to protect the human rights of members of other religious minorities facing official and societal harassment and discrimination?
- Iran continues to maintain the death penalty and other criminal sanctions for consensual same-sex sexual activity, and LGBT individuals face violence and harassment by security forces. Such activities should not be regarded as criminal and certainly cannot be considered “most serious crimes” that would permit imposition of the death penalty under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. What is the government doing to remove these laws, and in particular the death penalty?
- How is the Iranian government advancing women's and girls' full participation in the economic, academic, and cultural life of their country, including their ability to study all fields open to male students in universities, their equal access to the job market, and their ability to attend public cultural, including sports, events?