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**Summary prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21**

**Islamic Republic of Iran\***

The present report is a summary of 49 stakeholders' submissions<sup>1</sup> to the universal periodic review. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), nor any judgement or determination in relation to specific claims. The information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes and, to the extent possible, the original texts have not been altered. As provided for in Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, where appropriate, a separate section is provided for contributions by the national human rights institution of the State under review that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles. The full texts of all submissions received are available on the OHCHR website. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review and developments during that period.

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\* The present document was not edited before being sent to United Nations translation services.



## I. Information provided by stakeholders

### A. Background and framework

#### 1. Scope of international obligations

1. Joint Submission 4 (JS4) stated that in spite of the promises to ratify CEDAW and CAT and to submit bills with that aim to Parliament (Majlis), those key instruments had not yet been ratified.<sup>2</sup> London Legal Group (LLG) also highlighted the importance of signing and ratifying the CAT and CEDAW, as well as implementing the measures necessary to fully guarantee and protect the rights and freedoms enshrined in the international instruments, to which the Islamic Republic of Iran is already a signatory.<sup>3</sup>

#### 2. Constitutional and legislative framework

2. JS4 highlighted that since the previous UPR in 2010, no measures had been undertaken to amend discriminatory and restrictive laws, including the Constitution. New laws concerning women's rights and the Islamic Penal Code (IPC) had been enacted but they had not been brought into line with international human rights law. Furthermore, no measures had been taken to specify the status of international human rights treaties in domestic law.<sup>4</sup>

3. Amnesty International (AI) noted that once ratified, international treaties were accorded the force of law, however, key human rights guarantees contained in the ICCPR and ICESCR and other treaties had not yet been incorporated into domestic law.<sup>5</sup>

4. Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML) noted with concern that the discriminatory legal framework, which enforces direct and *de jure* discrimination against women, remained entirely unchanged.<sup>6</sup>

5. AI stated that the Constitution contained articles protecting some human rights, but these were subject to vague qualifications such as "in accordance with Islamic criteria." AI also noted that the 2013 IPC criminalized many acts that amount to legitimate exercise of human rights retaining vaguely-worded "crimes" such as "spreading propaganda against the system" and "insulting the holy sanctities", which the authorities use to arbitrarily detain peaceful critics.<sup>7</sup> Further, Iran Human Rights Document Center (IHRDC) noted that under the IPC, the definitions of *moharebeh* (*enmity against God*) and *efsad-e-fel-arz* (*corruption on earth*) had been extended and were open to further interpretation to include some crimes of a highly political character, such as membership in opposition groups and supporting the overthrow of the Islamic regime.<sup>8</sup>

6. IHRDC also expressed concern that the new IPC refers the punishment of the *hadd* crimes that are not explicitly provided for in the IPC, e.g. apostasy, to Article 167 of the Constitution and ultimately to "authentic Islamic sources and *fatwas*". Since there is no unified set of "authentic" Islamic sources and *fatwas*, this "catchall" provision allows for numerous, and not clearly defined, legal outcomes.<sup>9</sup>

7. JS4 noted that the provisions of the Constitution and the Civil Code regarding marriage, divorce, custody of children, inheritance, and nationality remained discriminatory. The 2013 IPC had retained discriminatory provisions on women's testimony, compensation in the case of injury or death and honour killing.<sup>10</sup>

### 3. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

8. International Association of Justice Watch (IAJW) recommended holding human rights education for judges and law enforcement officials and setting up a police human rights department, as well as human rights advisory units in police and justice centres.<sup>11</sup>

9. Lovers of Successful Families Association noted that in 2010, the Parliament ratified an act entitled “The 5th Development Plan”, which aims to promote women's positions in the scientific, educational, cultural, social, employment fields, and to strengthen the family.<sup>12</sup>

10. Rebirth Society recommended making efforts to reduce stigma and discrimination against drug users through implementation of various educational and social projects, and to reduce the criminalization of addiction.<sup>13</sup>

## B. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

### 1. Cooperation with special procedures

11. Human Rights Watch (HRW) noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran had continuously denied access to thematic special procedures of the Human Rights Council since 2005, despite its formal standing invitation and longstanding and repeated requests for invitations to visit.<sup>14</sup> Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) recommended that the Government should confirm a date for a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and respond to all requests from Special Procedures.<sup>15</sup>

## C. Implementation of international human rights obligations

### 1. Equality and non-discrimination

12. AI underscored that Iran’s legal system entrenches discrimination based on sex by giving women a subordinate status relative to men denying them equality before the law.<sup>16</sup>

13. AI also noted that the revised IPC discriminated against members of religious minorities.<sup>17</sup>

14. Joint Submission 5 (JS5) recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to eliminate and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, including with respect to access to employment, housing, education, and healthcare, and to ensure that all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, are protected from violence and social exclusion. This would include eliminating the requirement of sex-reassignment surgery for transgender persons to change the gender markers on their official documents.<sup>18</sup>

### 2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

15. AI noted that the death penalty was prescribed in national law for offences other than those considered “ the most serious crimes” under international law such as drug trafficking and for acts that should not be criminalized such as consensual same-sex intercourse.<sup>19</sup> HRW also stated that the judiciary had carried out death sentences for vaguely worded or overly broad terrorism-related charges such as *moharebeh*. Since 2009 the majority of death sentences carried out for the crime of *moharebeh* had affected

ethnic minorities, especially Kurds, Ahwazi Arabs, and Baluchis.<sup>20</sup> IHRDC added that pursuant to the Anti-Narcotics Act, the death penalty continued to apply to drug-related offenses, which also do not meet the “most serious crimes” as prescribed under international law. Executions for drug-related offenses constitute the highest percentage of executions in the country.<sup>21</sup>

16. According to Joint Submission 1 (JS1), the 2013 IPC retains the death penalty for nearly all offenses as in the former IPC and even expands its scope giving judges authority to order death in additional cases based on Sharia law, while it reduces the number of death-eligible crimes for which juvenile offenders may be executed.<sup>22</sup> AI also noted that the revised IPC retained stoning to death as a punishment for “adultery while married”, which is imposed disproportionately against women, as well as other cruel punishments, including flogging and amputation.<sup>23</sup>

17. JS4 noted that thousands were reportedly on death row and several hundred were executed every year. Death-row inmates were often not informed when they were due to be executed until they were transferred to solitary confinement, in many cases, a day before. Their lawyers were not always informed of the execution in advance, as is required by Iranian law.<sup>24</sup>

18. JS1 noted that despite accepting the recommendation to abolish juvenile executions in the 2010 previous review, juvenile offenders continued to be executed.<sup>25</sup> AI also noted that, during the last four years, the Islamic Republic of Iran had carried out more executions than any other country except for one and continued to execute juvenile offenders.<sup>26</sup>

19. AI stated that there was no clear and comprehensive definition of torture that conforms to international standards.<sup>27</sup>

20. International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran (ICHRI) stated that there was consistent, credible evidence that the Islamic Republic of Iran had continued to engage in systematic and widespread torture throughout the judicial system since its first review in 2010.<sup>28</sup> ICHRI specified that detainees were routinely tortured often in order to extract confessions, methods of which included beatings, breaking bones and teeth, electric shock administered to various body parts, including the genitals.<sup>29</sup> AI also stated that torture and other ill-treatment, particularly during pre-trial detention, remained prevalent, and were committed with impunity. While the State Prison Authority (SPA) was legally responsible for supervising detention centres, security bodies, including the Ministry of Intelligence and Revolutionary Guards reportedly maintained separate detention facilities that are not supervised by the SPA, and in which torture and other ill-treatment of detainees are common.<sup>30</sup> LLG expressed similar concerns.<sup>31</sup> Similarly, JS4 noted that implementation of the punishment of amputation for theft had also been on the rise in recent years.<sup>32</sup>

21. Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization stated that the widespread use of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in detention facilities, unofficial secret prisons and detention centers, was particularly aimed at persons accused of national security-related crimes. Members of minority communities were disproportionately victims of these.<sup>33</sup>

22. AI noted that scores of political prisoners, including prisoners of conscience were held. They included journalists, student activists and human rights lawyers such as Mohammad Ali Dadkhah, Abdolfattah Soltani and Mohammad Seyfzadeh.<sup>34</sup> JS2 further noted that many political prisoners had been subjected to beatings, mock executions, prolonged solitary confinement, and sleep deprivation. Coerced “confessions” from detainees were often used and accepted as evidence by courts of law and allegations of torture were rarely investigated. Trials commonly fell short of international standards of fairness and there was widespread impunity for torture and other ill-treatment.<sup>35</sup> Joint

Submission 3 (JS3) noted that some civil society activists and prisoners of conscience were reportedly denied access to legal representation for months while in pre-trial detention.<sup>36</sup>

23. According to Justice for Iran (JFI), forms of sexual torture and other ill-treatment reported include sexual harassment and assault, extraction of false confessions regarding women's sexual relationships, unjustified strip and body cavity searches, inappropriate touching of genitals and breasts, threats of rape, forced marriages, rape of young virgin girls before execution, deprivation of access to sanitary pads, deprivation of access to safe, hygienic conditions during pregnancy and delivery, and the use of women's newly born infants as a tool to inflict psychological pain.<sup>37</sup> Joint Submission 9 emphasized that women and LGBTI persons in prison were particularly vulnerable.<sup>38</sup>

24. AI noted numerous documented cases in which political prisoners and detainees were denied adequate medical care by prison authorities, including for injuries or health problems caused by torture or other ill-treatment.<sup>39</sup>

25. ICHRI stated that in addition to substandard nutrition, hygiene and overcrowding in prisons, the most egregious and pervasive ill-treatment is the denial of critically medical care.<sup>40</sup> Similarly, JS6 noted that several lawyers in detention had been denied adequate medical treatment highlighting reports that Mustafa Daneshju was found unconscious in a prison shower; that Mohammad Seifzadeh urgently requires treatment for serious heart disease; and that Abdolfattah Soltani and Amir Eslami face health problems.<sup>41</sup>

26. Joint Submission 6 (JS6) stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran had, *inter alia*: subjected lawyers to politically motivated prosecutions for carrying out their legitimate work as lawyers; carried out reprisals against members of the Defenders of Human Rights Center for their peaceful human rights advocacy; denied medical attention and access to legal representation to imprisoned lawyers; and carried out reprisals against lawyers representing members of minority groups in cases involving the determination of rights.<sup>42</sup>

27. AI stated that suspected offenders, including those targeted due to their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, were subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention, torture and other ill-treatment and imprisonment.<sup>43</sup> Joint Submission 8 (JS8) stated that transgender people were victims of various forms of violence at home and in public. Due to gender identity, they were stigmatized, harassed and abused verbally and physically by their family members, people on the street, classmates at school, colleagues at work and state-agents in plain clothes.<sup>44</sup>

28. Iranian Railroad for Queer Refugees (IRQR) stated that security forces, including the police and paramilitary known as the Militia, had relied upon discriminatory laws to harass, arrest and detain allegedly queer individuals. Such enforcement of morality laws against sexual minorities illustrated that powerful homophobic rhetoric from religious leaders.<sup>45</sup>

29. According to AI, the authorities have failed to address violence against women and girls, which remains endemic.<sup>46</sup> WLUML recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish men who murder their wives or other female relatives on suspicion of adultery or other so-called 'honour crimes'.<sup>47</sup>

30. Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children noted that corporal punishment of children had long been lawful in the home and care settings and in the penal system as a sentence under Islamic law. Efforts had been made to strengthen children's legal protection from violence, but legislation continued to provide for the right of parents and others to impose corporal punishment on children. It recommended that legislation be enacted to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, including the home and as a sentence for crime, and to repeal all laws providing for a right of "correction".<sup>48</sup>

31. Institute for Social Justice Pakistan stated that every year hundreds of innocent children, women mainly persons with disabilities were abducted from poor areas of a neighbouring country and transported to Iran where these children and person with disabilities were forced to beg in front of mosques and shrines.<sup>49</sup>

### 3. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

32. According to AI, trials, especially those before Revolutionary Courts are unfair, and the judiciary lacks independence and is subject to political interference.<sup>50</sup>

33. JS4 stated that in the overwhelming majority of cases, political defendants mostly charged with acting against national security or similar charges were detained *incommunicado* for long periods and refused access to lawyer and due process before the completion of investigation.<sup>51</sup>

34. JS4 stated that the authorities had long been trying to deprive the Bar Association of its lawfully constituted independence by vetting and banning candidates for election to its board of directors.<sup>52</sup> Similarly, JS6 noted that in 2012 the judiciary drafted a bill on the reorganisation of the Iranian Bar Association: the draft Bill on Formal Attorneyship, which introduces supervision of lawyers by the state thereby severely threatening the independence of the legal profession. The Bill is currently waiting to be submitted to Parliament.<sup>53</sup> In addition, JS6 noted recent reports of cases where: (i) legal representation was denied to members of minority groups, and (ii) lawyers were arrested and prosecuted apparently for representing members of a minority group.<sup>54</sup>

35. According to JS4, the 2013 IPC specifically rejects the principle of presumption of innocence in regard to several ‘offences’: *moharebeh* (waging war on God), corruption on earth, theft and false accusation of sodomy or fornication and retains a discriminatory approach against non-Muslims in favour of Muslims.<sup>55</sup>

36. Child Rights International Network (CRIN) recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility and eliminate discrimination between boys and girls in this regard.<sup>56</sup>

### 4. Right to privacy, marriage and family life

37. AI noted that the 2013 IPC criminalized all sexual conduct between individuals of the same sex, including between consenting adults.<sup>57</sup> JS5 specified that the new IPC provided for punishment ranging from 100 lashes for consensual sexual activity between women (Article 239) to death for consensual sexual intercourse between men (Article 234).<sup>58</sup>

38. JFI expressed concern that criminal laws and other official policies were being increasingly used as a tool to coerce gay, lesbian and transgender persons into reparative therapies and unwanted sterilization surgeries, in order to “cure” them of their homosexual attraction and make them “legal” under laws.<sup>59</sup>

39. HRW stated that women faced discrimination in many areas, including personal status matters related to marriage, divorce, inheritance, and child custody: a woman needs her male guardian’s approval for marriage regardless of her age, and cannot generally pass on her nationality to her foreign-born spouse or their children.<sup>60</sup>

40. HRW also stated that child marriage, though not the norm, continued, where the law provides that girls can marry at the age of 13 and boys at the age of 15 and below such ages with the permission of a judge. According to HRW, in 2013, a new law on the protection of children in adoptive care came into force that allows marriage between current and former adoptive parents and their children if a court decides that the marriage is in the interests of the child.<sup>61</sup>

41. According to WLUML, as of 2010, the Government estimated that there were 32,000 cases of unregistered marriages between Iranian women and Afghan men. Children born out of these marriages continue to remain in legal limbo and experience daily realities characterized by discrimination, violence and absolute lack of entitlement, including to education and primary health care.<sup>62</sup>

## **5. Freedom of movement**

42. JS3 noted that a human rights defender, Abdolfattah Soltani's wife was arrested and held in custody for close to one week in July 2011 after travelling to Nuremburg to receive the Nuremburg Human Rights Award on her husband's behalf. She was sentenced to one year in prison which was later suspended for five years and handed a five year ban on foreign travel.<sup>63</sup> The 12 year old daughter of Nasrin Sotoudeh, a human rights activist and lawyer, was handed an international travel ban by the authorities.<sup>64</sup>

43. WLUML noted Article 18 of the Passport Law that requires women to obtain a written agreement of their husbands in order for them to be issued a passport. Men are also entitled, under Article 19 of the same law, to impose a travel ban on their wives and request that their passports be confiscated.<sup>65</sup>

## **6. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life**

44. Armageddon Cultural Institute noted that only officially recognised religions such as Judaism, Zoroastrianism and Christianity had certain rights as religious minorities.<sup>66</sup>

45. CSW stated that there had been longstanding persecution of religious minorities, with a marked increase since 2009. Religious minorities were viewed with suspicion and seen as threatening the Islamic integrity of a theocratic system bent on enforcing a strict version of Shia Islam. Despite the country being party to various international covenants, Christians, Baha'is, Sufi Dervishes, and Sunni Muslims had been killed, tortured and imprisoned on account of their faith.<sup>67</sup>

46. European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) noted that while there were no criminal laws that prohibit private religious gatherings in an individual's home, Christians were consistently targeted in these situations.<sup>68</sup> ECLJ specifically referred to the case of Saeed Abedini who is serving an 8-year sentence for leading small, peaceful, religious gatherings of Christians between 2000 and 2005.<sup>69</sup>

47. JS3 stated that the authorities had not implemented the accepted recommendations during the previous review as they continued to harass, attack, persecute, and arbitrarily arrest civil society activists, human rights defenders and journalists, and severely curtail the freedoms of association, assembly and expression.<sup>70</sup> Reporters Without Borders (RSF) stated that journalists were being harassed and threatened and the Intelligence Ministry continued to pressure the families of journalists who are abroad working for media based outside the country.<sup>71</sup> International Service for Human Rights recommended that the Government conduct an immediate investigation of allegations of reprisals, and ensure protection of human rights defenders and journalists from persecution, harassment and intimidation.<sup>72</sup>

48. JS3 referred to the 1989 Press Law and the IPC, used to criminalize critical reporting. The 2009 Computer Crimes Law had repeatedly been invoked to suppress the legitimate activities of online activists and bloggers. Media representatives were regularly harassed by the authorities on the basis of news articles, opinion pieces, and blogs for commentary deemed critical of the Government or discuss a number of sensitive topics, including the rights of women and minority ethnic groups.<sup>73</sup>

49. According to JS4, a large number of newspapers and journals were either banned, had their licences revoked or received warnings from the authorities in the period of 2009-2013. In total, 35 newspapers, weeklies, monthlies and quarterlies were banned, licences of 11 others and one news agency were revoked and the Government issued 106 warnings to the news media in that period.<sup>74</sup>

50. Joint Submission 2 (JS2) noted a centralized system developed by the Government for Internet filtering, and institutions tasked with monitoring Internet use and censorship of content. JS2 also noted that the Revolutionary Guard Corps was engaged in enforcing Internet content standards.<sup>75</sup> HRW expressed similar concerns.<sup>76</sup> IRQR and Joint Submission 8 (JS8) expressed concern that the Iranian Government extends surveillance and censorship efforts for gay bloggers.<sup>77</sup>

51. According to HRW, the Government has either shut down or severely interfered in the internal affairs of various civil society groups and nongovernmental organizations such as the Tahkim-e Vahdat (one of the country's largest university student groups), the Iranian Journalists Association, and the Iranian Bar Association, and the Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company.<sup>78</sup>

52. JS3 noted that since the 2010 previous review, the authorities had continued to use excessive force and mass arrests to disperse peaceful protests.<sup>79</sup> On 14 February 2011, anti-riot police and officers in civilian clothing used excessive physical force, including batons and teargas in Tehran and other cities, against protesters who were demonstrating in support of similar movements in several countries in North Africa and the Middle East. More than 30 political activists and journalists were arrested while several others suffered injuries as a result of physical abuse by police forces. During the protests, the Government, in an attempt to prevent communication between protest groups, jammed television programmes, slowed internet speed, shut down opposition websites and independent media and interrupted radio broadcasting of several stations.<sup>80</sup>

53. HRW noted that during the 14 June 2013 presidential and local elections, several opposition party members were serving prison sentences and prevented from participating. The Guardian Council, an unelected body of 12 religious jurists, disqualified all but eight of the more than 680 registered presidential candidates using vague criteria.<sup>81</sup>

#### **7. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

54. Comprehensive Nongovernmental Center for Empowerment of Women and the Family (CNCWFJEE) noted that due to economic problems, there were still a notable number of women who do not have suitable jobs to provide for their living.<sup>82</sup>

55. Dadandishan of Pasargad Institute noted a rise in unemployment, an increase in marginalization, a drop in the economic participation rate, negative economic growth over the past two years, and a reduction in the people's purchasing power.<sup>83</sup>

56. JS4 noted heavy crackdowns, including arrests, prosecution and imprisonment of their members, on several independent labour unions formed in the past few years. A number of labour unionists were currently serving long-term prison sentences.<sup>84</sup>

#### **8. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living**

57. Joint Submission 7 noted the children's nourishment programme aimed at providing services such as food baskets, nourishment consultations, and practical training for mothers regarding children's nourishment.<sup>85</sup>

58. JFI expressed concern that in their application, mandatory hijab laws have impaired the enjoyment of the human rights of women, on an equal footing with men, to education,



work, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, freedom of movement in public spaces, and participation in recreational activities and sports.<sup>86</sup>

## 9. Right to health

59. International Diabetes Prevention and Control Foundation (IDPCF) stated that with the inability and lack of health infrastructures, any form of reform programmes aimed at improving the health situation would be faced with problems that require changes in the structure and the creation of necessary infrastructures for the implementation of such reform programmes.<sup>87</sup> IDPCF recommended, among others, mandatory insurance coverage for health services for all the population.<sup>88</sup>

60. AI stated that the authorities had reduced women's access to sexual and reproductive health services as part of reversing an official policy on population control further eroding women and girls' enjoyment of their rights.<sup>89</sup>

61. SPASDI noted that many HIV/AIDS patients were not accepted by their families and were deprived of job, education and interaction with others, while there was no risk of contagion for interacting with others. There were instances where workers of healthcare system such as nurses, dentists and surgeons refused to serve HIV/AIDS patients engendering physical and psychological problems and a higher risk of contagion.<sup>90</sup> Prevention Association of Social Harms stated that due to sanctions, Iranian banks were unable to transfer funds, as a result of which international drugs manufacturers refrain from dealing with Iranian buyers. Efforts by nongovernmental organizations for education, prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, including the import of drugs for HIV/AIDS, had also been disrupted over the last four years putting HIV/AIDS patients in danger.<sup>91</sup>

62. JFI noted reports that gay, lesbian and transgender persons were subjected by health care professionals, including those working in public hospitals, to electroshock treatment, mind-altering and nausea-inducing drugs, non-consensual sterilization, and grossly negligent sex reassignment surgeries resulting in horrific scarring, loss of sexual sensation, debilitating infectious diseases, incontinence, chronic chest pain and severe back pain.<sup>92</sup> JS8 recommended enacting legislation and developing a clear policy to regulate the practice of sex reassignment surgery ensuring that it is grounded in human rights, provides quality, affordable and timely care and protects patients in cases of malpractice.<sup>93</sup>

63. Association of Citizens Civil Rights Protection stated that sanctions on drugs and medicines had caused a lot of problems for the people. Some of these problems include: patents failing to receive medicines that they need, which, in turn, causes the spread of sickness among incurable patients; and their failure in getting necessary medication for cancer, heart, asthma, thalassemia and lung problems.<sup>94</sup>

## 10. Right to education

64. According to AI, the authorities have limited women's access to higher education by imposing gender quotas, excluding women from certain academic courses and increasing gender segregation at universities.<sup>95</sup>

65. Child Foundation requested the Ministry of Education to work with charities relevant to education of children to provide children and students with more extensive and better services.<sup>96</sup>

66. LLG noted that Kurds and other minority groups (Afghan refugees, Ahwazi Arabs, Sistan and Balochistan) were prevented from accessing education in their mother tongue and were banned from using minority languages in official contexts.<sup>97</sup>

67. AI noted that discriminatory policies and practices prevented Baha'is and certain other religious minorities from studying at Iran's universities, and that activists

campaigning for the full enjoyment of the right to education of Baha'is faced imprisonment.<sup>98</sup>

#### 11. Cultural rights

68. HRW noted a positive move by the Ministry of Culture, which ordered the reopening of the country's largest independent film guild, the House of Cinema, shut down in January 2012.<sup>99</sup>

69. Javdan Cultural House recommended an increase in the public budget for research and introduction of the Iranian macro culture customs and traditions and for the preservation and protection of the country's historical artefacts and monuments.<sup>100</sup>

70. According to Freemuse, there are many legal, political, economic, social and cultural barriers generally hindering free artistic activities that have a disparate impact on women.<sup>101</sup>

#### 12. Persons with disabilities

71. Society for the Protection of Handicapped Children and Youth noted that the 2004 Supporting Handicapped Rights Act defined the responsibilities of each organization towards people with disabilities. However, since almost 10 years in enforcement, the main part of the Act had not been implemented, the reasons for which may be traced to lack of an adequate budget and a supervising system.<sup>102</sup>

#### 13. Minorities

72. Institute for Women's Studies and Research noted increased production and broadcast of radio and television programmes in the languages of ethnic groups such as Azeri, Kurdish, Balochi, Arabic, and Turkmen by provincial networks of the Iran Broadcasting.<sup>103</sup>

73. AI and ICHRI noted that members of ethnic minorities, including Ahwazi Arabs, Azerbaijanis, Baluchis, Kurds, and Turkmen continued to face a range of discriminatory laws and practices despite constitutional guarantees of equality. Members of minority groups, particularly those who seek greater recognition of their cultural and linguistic rights were likely to experience persecution, including arrest and imprisonment.<sup>104</sup>

74. HRW highlighted restricted political participation and employment of non-Shia Muslim minorities, including Sunnis, who have been prevented from constructing mosques in Tehran and are restricted to conduct communal Eid prayers. The authorities also systematically targeted members of the Nematollahi Gonabadi, a Sufi order, including arrests of their members and destruction of their houses of worship.<sup>105</sup>

75. Bahá'í International Community (BIC) noted that in the past years, beatings were common, and some were subjected to *incommunicado* detention and/or solitary confinement during the interrogation period for a duration of up to 89 days. Officials inflicted severe torture on Bahá'ís while questioning them.<sup>106</sup>

76. BIC stated that as of December 2013 there were 136 Bahá'ís imprisoned in the country, with cases of arbitrary arrest and detention reported in 2013.<sup>107</sup>

77. According to BIC, Bahá'í children and adolescents are subjected to intimidation and harassment by teachers and school officials in classrooms. Some faced expulsion, when their identities were revealed. Young Bahá'ís were often pressured to convert to Islam, obliged to use textbooks that denigrate and falsify their religious heritage, and singled out as their faith was attacked; all who dared to respond were severely reprimanded.<sup>108</sup>

78. BIC stated that students identified as Bahá'ís continued to be denied access to public and private universities and vocational training institutes. From 2011 to early 2013, there

were at least two dozen additional expulsion cases of Baha'is who had entered university without their religion being identified. The authorities were trying to ensure that no more Bahá'í students who began their studies will be allowed to graduate with a degree.<sup>109</sup>

79. BIC stated that since 2010, some officials and members of the clergy, as well as government and State-affiliated media, conferences, publications, exhibitions, websites and other sources sponsored by officials or clergy, had publicly continued to engage in incitement targeting the Bahá'í Faith and its adherents.<sup>110</sup>

80. CSW recommended an end to the use of inflammatory hate speech targeting religious minorities and the return of all suspended rights to the Baha'i community in particular.<sup>111</sup>

81. BIC stated that after the previous UPR, the authorities intensified the application of discriminatory policies that deny members of the Bahá'í community the right to work and earn a decent living.<sup>112</sup> BIC noted that shops and other businesses were shut down in over 20 cities and towns throughout the country, and plainclothes agents and others persisted in attacking Bahá'í homes and cemeteries with total impunity.<sup>113</sup>

82. According to BIC, starting in 2010, the authorities ransacked numerous homes and greatly increased their efforts to eradicate all the community events, gatherings and group activities that are, for members of the Bahá'í Faith, not only a social and cultural right, but also an integral part of their religious practice.<sup>114</sup>

#### **14. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers**

83. HRW noted that in September 2013, the Islamic Republic of Iran threatened to expel hundreds of thousands of Afghans without allowing them to have their asylum claims considered fairly or to challenge any order to deport them.<sup>115</sup>

#### **15. Right to development, and environmental issues**

84. Rahbord Peymayesh Institute noted studies that show that social and cultural factors, including varied expectations from men and women in society, have created important obstacles in women's participation.<sup>116</sup>

85. Supporters of Clean Nature Institute recommended, among others: setting up of a comprehensive natural resources, forests, cultural heritage data bank that guarantees advancements; holding of education workshops; and information dissemination.<sup>117</sup>

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org).

## Civil society

## Individual submissions:

ACCRP	Association of Citizens Civil Rights Protection, Shiraz (Islamic Republic of Iran);
ACI	Armageddon Cultural Institute, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
AI	Amnesty International, London (United Kingdom);
BIC	Bahá'í International Community, Geneva (Switzerland);
CF	Child Foundation, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
CIPSV	Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
CNCEWF	Comprehensive Nongovernmental Center for Empowerment of Women and the Family, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
CRIN	Child Rights International Network;
CSW	Christian Solidarity Worldwide, (United Kingdom);
DPI	Dadandishan Pasargad Institute, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
ECLJ	European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg (France);
FREEMUSE	World Forum on Music and Censorship, Copenhagen (Denmark);
GCRAH	Global Convent for Repsect Ali-e-Asghar Honour, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
GIEACPC	Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, London (United Kingdom);
HPFHR	House of Peace, Freedom and Human Rights, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
HRW	Human Rights Watch, New York (United States of America);
IAJW	International Association of Justice Watch, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
ICHRI	International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran, New York (United States of America);
IDPCF	International Diabetes Prevention and Control Foundation, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
IHRDC	Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, Connecticut (United States of America);
IPFA	Iran-Poland Friendship Association, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
IRQR	Iranian Railroad for Queer Refugees, Toronto (Canada);
ISHR	International Service for Human Rights, Geneva (Switzerland);
ISJP	Institute for Justice Pakistan, Islamabad (Pakistan);
IWSR	Institute for Women's Studies and Research, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
JCH	Javdan Cultural House, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
JFI	Justice for Iran, London (United Kingdom);
LLG	London Legal Group, London (United Kingdom);
LSFA	Lovers of Successful Families Association, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
PASH	Prevention Association of Social Harms, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
RPI	Rahbord Peymayesh Institute, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
RS	Rebirth Society, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
RWB	Reporters Without Borders, Paris (France);
SCNI	Supporters of Clean Nature Institute, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);

SIWASD	Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
SPASDI	SPASDI, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
SPHCY	Society for the Protection of Handicapped Children and Youth, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
UNPO	Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization, Brussels (Belgium);
WIUFM	Women International Union of the Follower of the Monotheistic, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
WLUML	Women Living under Muslim Laws, London (United Kingdom);
Joint submissions:	
JS1	Joint submission 1 submitted by: Abdorrahman Boroumand Foundation, Advocates for Human Rights, Association for Human Rights in Kurdistan of Iran-Geneva, Iran Human Rights, and World Coalition Against the Death Penalty;
JS2	Joint submission 2 submitted by: Article19 and PEN International, London (United Kingdom);
JS3	Joint submission 3 submitted by: CIVICUS, Johannesburg (South Africa) and International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran (ICHRI), New York (United States of America);
JS4	Joint submission 4 submitted by: FIDH, Paris (France) and League for the Defence of Human Rights in Iran (LDDHI), Paris (France);
JS5	Joint submission 5 submitted by: International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), New York (United States of America) and Iranian Queer Organization (IRQO);
JS6	Joint submission 6 submitted by: Lawyers for Lawyers (L4L), Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and Lawyers Rights Watch Canada (LRWC), Vancouver, Canada;
JS7	Joint submission 7 submitted by : Organizationi for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV), Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran), and Afagh e Jahan Center for Cultural Studies and Stratetgic Communication, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
JS8	Joint submission 8 submitted by : Iranian Queer Organization (IRQO), Tronto (Canada), and Sexual Rights Initiative (SRI);
JS9	Joint submission 5 submitted by: Sudwind, Vienna (Austria), International Coalition against Violence in Iran (United Kingdom), International Organisation to Preserve Human Rights in Iran, (United Kingdom), and Association Arc Culture - Revendication Démocratique et Droits de l'homme en Azerbaidjan – Iran.

<sup>2</sup> JS4, para. 1.

<sup>3</sup> LLG, para. 38.

<sup>4</sup> JS4, para. 3. See also IHRDC, p. 1.

<sup>5</sup> AI, p. 1.

<sup>6</sup> WLUML, para. 4.

<sup>7</sup> AI, p. 2.

<sup>8</sup> IHRDC, p. 5.

<sup>9</sup> IHRDC, p. 6.

<sup>10</sup> JS4, para. 5.

<sup>11</sup> IAJW, para. 22 (c).

<sup>12</sup> LSFA, para. 9.

<sup>13</sup> RS, para. 20.

<sup>14</sup> HRW, p. 4. See also ICHRI, para. 10.1.

<sup>15</sup> CSW, paras. 31-32.

<sup>16</sup> AI, p. 2.

<sup>17</sup> AI, p. 2.

<sup>18</sup> JS5, para. IV. 3.

<sup>19</sup> AI, p. 2.

- 20 HRW, p. 2.  
21 IHRDC, p. 1.  
22 JS1, para. 7.  
23 AI, p. 2. See also JS9, p. 3.  
24 JS4, paras. 17 and 20.  
25 JS1, para. 10.  
26 AI, p. 3. See also JS4, para. 21, HRW, p. 2.  
27 AI, p. 2.  
28 ICHRI, para. 2.1.  
29 ICHRI, para. 2.2.  
30 AI, p. 3. See also JS4, para. 15.  
31 LLG, para. 15.  
32 JS4, para. 23.  
33 UNPO, p. 4.  
34 AI, p. 4.  
35 JS2, para. 42.  
36 JS3, para. 2.2.  
37 JFI, para. 20.  
38 JS9, p. 7.  
39 AI, p. 3.  
40 ICHRI, para. 5.2.  
41 JS6, para. 2.2.  
42 JS6, para. 1. 6.  
43 AI, p. 3.  
44 JS8, para. 20.  
45 IRQR, para. 12.  
46 AI, p. 3.  
47 WLUML, p. 9.  
48 GIEACPC, para. 1.3.  
49 ISJP, p. 2.  
50 AI, p. 2.  
51 JS4, para. 15.  
52 JS4, para. 28.  
53 JS6, paras. 5.1. – 5.3.  
54 JS6, para. 4.2.  
55 JS4, para. 19.  
56 CRIN, paras. 3 and 12. See also IHRDC, p. 3.  
57 AI, p. 3.  
58 JS5, para. I. 1.  
59 JFI, para. 13.  
60 HRW, p. 3. See also WLUML, paras. 9 – 10.  
61 HRW, p. 3.  
62 WLUML, para. 15.  
63 JS3, para. 2.4.  
64 JS3, para. 2. 9. See also ICHRI, para. 7.2.  
65 WLUML, para. 13.  
66 ACI, p. 1. See also WIUTFM, para. 4.  
67 CSW, para. 35.  
68 ECLJ, para. 4. See also HRW, p. 4.  
69 ECLJ, paras. 5 and 14.  
70 JS3, para. 1.3.  
71 RWB, p.2.  
72 ISHR, para. 6.  
73 JS3, para. 3.2. See also JS4, para. 25, ICHRI, para. 4.2., UNPO, p. 1.  
74 JS4, para. 26.  
75 JS2, para. 2.

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- <sup>76</sup> HRW, p. 3.  
<sup>77</sup> IRQR, para. 19., and JS8, paras. 4-6.  
<sup>78</sup> HRW, p. 2.  
<sup>79</sup> JS3, para. 4. 1.  
<sup>80</sup> JS3, para. 4.2.  
<sup>81</sup> HRW, p. 2.  
<sup>82</sup> CNCWFJEE, paras. 34 and 38.  
<sup>83</sup> DPI, para. 37.  
<sup>84</sup> JS4, para. 30.  
<sup>85</sup> JS7, para. 39.  
<sup>86</sup> JFI, para. 11.  
<sup>87</sup> IDPCF, para. 18.  
<sup>88</sup> IDPCF, para. 60.  
<sup>89</sup> AI, p. 3.  
<sup>90</sup> SPASDI, p. 5.  
<sup>91</sup> PASH, para. 2.  
<sup>92</sup> JFI, para. 16.  
<sup>93</sup> JS8, para. 41.  
<sup>94</sup> ACCRP, para. 8. See also IAJW, para. 12.  
<sup>95</sup> AI, p. 4.  
<sup>96</sup> CF, para. 27. See also GCRAH, para. 17.  
<sup>97</sup> LLG, para. 27.  
<sup>98</sup> AI, p. 4.  
<sup>99</sup> HRW, p. 2.  
<sup>100</sup> JCH, para. 24. See also HPFHR, para. 8., and IPFA, p. 3.  
<sup>101</sup> Freemuse, para. 10.  
<sup>102</sup> SPHCY, p. 3. See also CIPSV, p. 5.  
<sup>103</sup> IWSR, p. 5.  
<sup>104</sup> AI, p. 4. And ICHRI, para. 6.2. See also ISJP, p.2.  
<sup>105</sup> HRW, p. 4.  
<sup>106</sup> BIC, para. 7.  
<sup>107</sup> BIC, para. 5.  
<sup>108</sup> BIC, para. 12.  
<sup>109</sup> BIC, para. 14.  
<sup>110</sup> BIC, para. 10.  
<sup>111</sup> CSW, para. 47.  
<sup>112</sup> BIC, para. 16.  
<sup>113</sup> BIC, para. 9.  
<sup>114</sup> BIC, para. 8.  
<sup>115</sup> HRW, p. 4.  
<sup>116</sup> RPI, para. 1.  
<sup>117</sup> SCNI, para. 3. See also SIWASD, para. 13.
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