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ORAL STATEMENT

ITEM 4: INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

IRAN: ENTRENCHED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES MUST END

UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-seventh session
26 February – 23 March 2018

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran while it also mourns her passing. This report details many concerns Amnesty International has also raised, including the use of the death penalty, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and human rights violations against members of ethnic and religious minorities and against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender and intersex people.

Despite being a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Iranian authorities continue to use the death penalty against individuals who were under 18 at the time of the crime of which they are convicted. Amnesty International has recorded the execution of three such individuals in 2018, and identified 80 others on death row. The real numbers are likely much higher.

Since 2013, scores of human rights defenders have received harsh prison sentences for national security-related offences stemming entirely from peaceful human rights activities. These activities include discussing human rights violations on social media, denouncing them in media interviews and communicating on them with victims, their families and international organizations.

Women who have peacefully protested against compulsory veiling have also faced arbitrary detention and prosecution, including more than 35 women who have been violently attacked and arrested in Tehran alone since December 2017. In compelling them to cover their hair, Iranian legislation has for decades discriminated against women and girls, who are its direct and sole targets.

The lethal use of firearms by security forces against protesters, which resulted in the death of at least 25 people, the mass arbitrary arrests of several thousand that followed the nationwide protests in December 2017 and January 2018, and the deaths in custody of at least four individuals detained following the protests illustrate entrenched patterns of human rights violations in Iran.

Amnesty International urges Iran to immediately implement the report's recommendations.

Thank you, Mr President