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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: IMPUNITY FOR ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND OTHER CRIMES UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW

UN Human Rights Council
Forty-sixth session
22 February – 19 March 2021

Madame President,

The Iran Human Rights Documentation Centre and Amnesty International welcome the latest report by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, detailing many concerns our organizations have also documented.

This session is taking place amid intensifying violations of the right to life by the Iranian authorities. They are increasingly using the death penalty as a weapon of political repression against protesters, dissidents and ethnic minorities. They continue to use lethal force deliberately and unlawfully, most recently killing at least 10 unarmed fuel porters from Iran's Baluchi minority on 22 February. Since the renewal of the mandate last year, there have also been multiple deaths in custody resulting from torture, including the deliberate denial of medical care. Absolute impunity persists for the unlawful killing of hundreds of men, women and children by Iran's security forces during the nationwide protests of November 2019 and for the ongoing enforced disappearance of thousands of dissidents in the context of the mass secret extrajudicial executions of 1988.

The authorities continue to unjustly imprison hundreds of protesters, human rights defenders, and members of religious and ethnic minorities for the exercise of their rights to freedom of religion, expression, association, and peaceful assembly. Thousands of others are arbitrarily detained without a legal basis, following unfair trials or due to their inability to pay their debts. Prisoners are generally held in cruel and inhuman conditions of detention, amid the authorities' failure to adequately protect and treat them from COVID-19 outbreaks.

We urge the Human Rights Council, at a minimum, to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur. We urge Iran to immediately implement the report's recommendations and cooperate with the Council.

Finally, given the systematic impunity prevailing in Iran, how does the Special Rapporteur believe member states of the Human Rights Council can identify pathways to address impunity and support the rights of victims for truth and justice?

Thank you, Madame President