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COI QUERY RESPONSE

IRAN – INFORMATION ON ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE AND TREATMENT FOR THOSE WITH HIV.

ARC – *Asylum Research Centre* in January 2024 states that: “All Human Rights for All in Iran and eight other civil society organisations observed the following in their report to the UN Human Rights Committee ahead of its 139th session and periodic review of Iran: “LGBTIQ+ individuals face barriers in accessing healthcare. Access to information about STDs/STIs and their appropriate targeted treatment, as well as general safe-sex advice is very limited in Iran, restricting significantly the access to sexual health for the heterosexual cisgender population, and almost entirely for the LGBT community”¹ The report further points out that: “The USDOS 2020 report on human rights practices in Iran, published in March 2021, stated that: “Despite government programs to treat and provide financial and other assistance to persons with HIV/AIDS, international news sources and organizations reported that individuals known to be infected with HIV/AIDS faced widespread societal discrimination. Individuals with HIV or AIDS, for example, continued to be denied employment as teachers”.”²

The *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)* in March 2024 reported that: “In an emblematic example, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Narges Mohammadi, who remains detained in Evin prison (Tehran) for her activism was denied access to medical care on at least two occasions because she refused to wear the mandatory *hijab*. In a post on Instagram published on 30 October 2023 she announced that, despite being called in for medical test, she was not allowed to leave the prison premises, on the basis of a prosecutorial order “that she should be sent to the hospital under any circumstances without a hijab”. In another post on Instagram published on 6 November, Narges Mohammadi announced that she had gone on hunger strike to protest the denial of medical

¹ ARC – Asylum Research Centre (January 2024) Iran: Query response on the situation and treatment of the LGBTQI+ community

² *ibid*

care by prison authorities. On 8 November 2023, official media reported that she had been transferred to the hospital where she underwent medical examination. She announced however that she did not wear the *hijab*.³

A report issued by *Amnesty International* in December 2023 states that: “Amnesty International has documented the torture and other ill-treatment of four out of the five people under sentence of death, through beatings, electric shocks, suffocation, sexual violence and deliberate denial of healthcare.”⁴

In December 2023 *Kurdistan Human Rights Association-Geneva (KMMK-G)* reported that: “The Baluchis are perceived as “*malakh-khur*” (insect eaters) and “*biaban-gard*” (wanderers), dehumanized and treated by the state and its media as people not worth living. Dozens of thousands of Baluchi children are deprived of national ID cards, thus deprived of education, access to health care and public life.”⁵

Justice for All International in September 2023 notes that: “Children's rights are an area of concern in Iran, as children face a range of challenges such as child labor, child marriage, and limited access to education and healthcare.”⁶

The *US Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices* in March 2023 states that: “Despite government programs to treat and provide financial and other assistance to persons with HIV or AIDS, international news sources and organizations reported that individuals known to be infected with HIV or AIDS faced widespread societal discrimination.”⁷

The *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)* in August 2022 reported that: “...with regard to rare diseases patients and persons with physical and psychosocial disabilities, including EB, HIV and cancer patients, people with hemophilia, autism,MSA, diabetes, thalassemia and many other, the Special Rapporteur was alarmed by the unavailability of foreign produced medicines, medical equipment, spare parts and high quality raw materials for pharmaceuticals, or in some cases the significant delays, denial of providing services and good, high costs and complexity of procurement through alternate routes, due to the reported over-compliance and overall reluctance of foreign companies and suppliers. Such restrictions and business conduct have exacted a considerable toll in human suffering and life.”⁸

³ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (19 March 2024) Detailed findings of the independent international fact-finding mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran [VIII. Repression of women and girls defying the mandatory hijab laws], p.15

⁴ Amnesty International (20 December 2023) Iran: Risk of protest-related executions amid killing spree

⁵ Kurdistan Human Rights Association-Geneva (KMMK-G) (7 December 2023) KMMK-G Interim Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Kurdistan of Iran for the period: 1st January to 30 November, 2023

⁶ Justice for All International (12 September 2023) Submission to the United Nations Human Rights Committee (Police brutality and excessive use of force in Iran)

⁷ US Department of State (20 March 2024) 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Iran, p.46

⁸ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (17 August 2022) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, Alena Douhan on her visit to the Republic of Iran, p.17

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