



General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 February 2012

English only

Human Rights Council

Nineteenth session

Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Joint written statement* submitted by the Non violent Radical Party – Transnational and Transparty, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status, the Women's Human Rights International Association (WHRIA), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[12 February 2012]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Executions escalate in the Islamic Republic of Iran, need for referral of Iran's human rights violation dossier to Security Council**

The escalation of executions in Iran has been from 546 individuals in 2010 to 700 in 2011. Amongst those executed last year, were 5 juveniles. Public executions had a rise from 15 to 61. Secret executions and the hanging were among the methods used on prisoners.

The number of executions in the first half of January 2012 was 43. According to a report from the FARS News Agency (Iranian state-run news agency), on January 15th, 12 people were hanged in the northwest city of Shiraz, 5 of which were carried out publicly throughout different parts of the city and the other seven were hanged in Shiraz's Adel Abad Prison. Also reported were the execution of 2 prisoners on January 11th in Evin Prison, 1 public hanging in the Gachsaran Prison, 3 public executions in Kermanshah (west of Iran) and another execution in Varamin's Khorwin on January 15th.

The condition of executions is an indication of the wave of repression in Iran and the methods of the Iranian regime in countering political instability and social turmoil in the country.

Executions in 2011 comprised 15 political prisoners, including members of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), who were executed for visiting their family members at Camp Ashraf or for supporting the organization. In a February 2nd, 2011 report, "Ms. Pillay expressed particular concern over the three known cases in which political activists were executed. Jafar Kazemi, Mohammad Ali Haj Aqaei and another man whose name was not disclosed, were affiliated with banned political parties. Kazemi and Aqaei were arrested in September 2009 during protests. All three individuals were convicted of mohareb or "enmity against God," and hanged last month."

A UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon December 15th, 2011 Report to the General Assembly A/66/361 writes:

Paragraph 10: "There has been no change in the application of the death penalty since the Secretary-General's interim report to the Human Rights Council in March 2011. The spike in executions, including in public, has continued with a large number of executions, particularly in drug-related cases. According to Amnesty International, in addition to the officially acknowledged 252 executions in 2010, reports of more than 300 other secret executions are alleged to have been carried out, mostly in Vakilabad Prison in Mashhad."

One of the methods used to torture political prisoners is tormenting them through depriving them of medical care and services. Mohsen Dokmechi, a well-known merchant in Tehran's Bazar, was arrested and imprisoned for visiting his daughter at Ashraf. He suffered from cancer, yet was deprived of treatment. As a result he died in the tough conditions of prison. Javad Lari, 56, a renowned Bazar merchant was arrested and imprisoned on September 15th, 2009. Suffering from many illnesses, he has to this date had many heart attacks. Kobra Banazadeh was arrested for having relatives in Ashraf, and she has lost her eyesight due to lack of medical care for her eye illness. Ali Moezi, 63, is suffering from cancer and he was transferred to solitary confinement in Ward 209 of Evin Prison after undergoing surgery. He is on death row for visiting his children in Ashraf.

** The Hands off Cain, an NGO without consultative status, also shares the views expressed in this statement.

Iran has also increased the implementation of atrocious punishments such as amputation of limbs and lashings in public. Last year the hands of 18 people were amputated and 18 others were lashed in public for the crime of drinking alcoholic beverages and “mischief”.

The Council of Europe Statement dating 20 Jan 2011 reads:

“The EU has repeatedly voiced its concern about the deteriorating human rights situation in Iran. It deplored the widespread repression of Iranian citizens, including human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists, who face harassment and arrests for exercising their legitimate rights. The EU has subjected 61 persons responsible for these serious human rights violations to an assets freeze and a ban from entering the EU. The Council regularly reviews the list of persons and entities subject to admission restrictions and asset freezes”.

While condemning the horrendous human rights violations by the Iranian government, and considering the continuous trend of these cases and the Iranian government not taking the international community’s concerns seriously, we NGOs see it necessary for these crimes against humanity to be assessed by the UN Security Council and the leaders of this government be brought to justice before international courts.
