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Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark,
Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal
and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:
draft resolution

Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1/ and the International Covenants on Human Rights, 2/

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the various international instruments in this field,

Recalling its pertinent resolutions, as well as the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Recalling, in particular, Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/55 of 11 March 1987, by which it decided to extend the mandate of its Special

* Reissued for technical reasons.

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Representative for one year and requested him to present an interim report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session on the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the situation of minority groups such as the Baha'is and on new elements contained in his report, for example the allegations of violations affecting the medical profession and a final report to the Commission at its forty-fourth session,

Taking note of the opinion of the Special Representative that legal obligations and commitments on human rights do not foresee or admit of partial acceptance of instruments that have been conceived, drafted and adopted as a unified, coherent and complete set of norms,

Noting the Special Representative's conviction that the persons appearing before him described violations that certainly happened to them and that their declarations were convincing,

Taking note of the Special Representative's view that the partial co-operation he received in 1986 from the Iranian Government had gone further, both through documents and personal contacts and that, therefore, there are grounds to hope that it may still increase in the months preceding the presentation of the final report,

Concerned none the less at the Special Representative's conclusion that the co-operation extended to him has not reached the level that the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights have consistently requested in the resolutions concerning this matter,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the interim report of the Special Representative and the considerations and the observations contained therein; 3/
2. Notes that the Special Representative observes that the problem concerning the medical profession appears to have been solved;
3. Welcomes the pardoning of prisoners and shares the Special Representative's hope that this may be the first stage of a process leading to a general amnesty for political prisoners;
4. Expresses again its deep concern about the numerous and detailed allegations of grave human rights violations in the Islamic Republic of Iran to which the Special Representative has referred in his report and, in particular, those related to the right to life, the right to freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the right to liberty and security of person and to freedom from arbitrary arrest or detention, the right to a fair trial, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion and to freedom of expression and the right of religious minorities to profess and practise their own religion;

5. Expresses its grave concern in particular that, although the Special Representative indicates that the number of alleged violations to the right to life has diminished over the past two years, information made available to him alleges the execution of some one hundred persons because of their political and religious convictions in the period October 1986-September 1987;

6. Expresses its deep concern at allegations that maltreatment and torture, both physical and psychological, are common in Iranian prisons during interrogation and before and after the final verdict, and at the existence of extremely summary and informal proceedings, the unawareness of specific accusations, the lack of legal counsel and other irregularities in respect to fair trial;

7. Shares the opinion of the Special Representative that the denial by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran of the allegations of violations of human rights as a whole, without details, is not sufficient for a sensible assessment of the situation on human rights in that country;

8. Endorses the conclusion of the Special Representative that acts continue to occur in the Islamic Republic of Iran that are inconsistent with international instruments to which the Government of that country is bound, and that the persistence of certain facts continues to justify continuing international concern;

9. Urges the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a State party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 4/ to respect and ensure to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction the rights recognized in that Covenant;

10. Urges once again the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to extend its full co-operation to the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights, and, in particular, to permit him to visit that country;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance to the Special Representative;

12. Decides to continue its examination of the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the situation of minority groups such as the Baha'is, during its forty-third session in order to examine this situation anew in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council.

4/ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.