



General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 September 2019

Original: English

Seventy-fourth session

Agenda item 70 (c)

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Letter dated 19 September 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the comments and observations on the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran ([A/74/273](#)) (see annex).

It would be appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 70 (c).

(Signed) Majid **Takht Ravanchi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 19 September 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Comments and observations by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/74/273)

1. There should be no mistake that the mandate behind the report (A/74/273) was initially put in place as an instrument of coercion and intimidation. Though the duplication of allegations does not substantiate them, the self-righteous proponents of the report view the annual production of four nearly identical reports on the situation of human rights in Iran as just another means in exercising their so-called “maximum pressure policy” against Iranians. Yet again, the report exposes the fact that the overlapping, duplication and waste of United Nations resources are of no importance for its few sponsors. They never hesitate in exploiting United Nations machineries, including its human rights mechanisms, to further their pressure against Iranians. In addressing the report, it is essential to understand that, should the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran unconditionally accept all of the recommendations contained therein, those behind the mandate and the report will raise other excuses to maintain their pressure. The truth is that the mandate and its ensuing reports have nothing to do with the noble cause of human rights. Actually, the report under question is the result of a manipulative mandate in flagrant disregard for the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, non-politicization and non-selectivity. Such characteristic makes all of the ensuing reports, regardless of their content, objectionable in their entirety.

2. It is a reality that the report is produced to solely serve the political objectives of a few self-appointed guardians of global virtues. Assuming that the same countries who unconditionally support foreign occupation, pre-emptive wars, racism, interference, torture and the most oppressive regimes of the world really care about human rights in Iran is both farcical and insulting. They are the exact same countries whose military complexes have been the cause of militarization, whose prisons have been the source of radicalization and whose interventions have been the cause of destabilization around the world that have cost untold blood and treasure. Those who have a historical and consistent record of betraying their promises and violating values such as justice, the rule of law and democracy cannot reserve for themselves the right to intervene and the privilege to interpret human rights. As a matter of fact, their rage against Iran, despite its open, vibrant and dynamic society as well as its regular reference to ballot boxes, has nothing to do with human rights or its violation. They are rather upset because, unlike in the past, they cannot decide the future of Iranians. Therefore, nothing looks more ludicrous than hearing outcry on human rights in Iran by those who have never cared about it in the first place.

3. Even today, Iranians are struggling to protect their human rights against a genocidal economic war waged by the United States. The economic terrorism that the United States has unleashed against Iranians, particularly the most vulnerable among them, deliberately and indiscriminately violates their basic human rights, including their right to food, their right to education, their right to health and their right to life. The statement by the United States Secretary of State that Iranian “leadership has to make a decision that they want their people to eat” reveals the horrendous mindset behind the economic terrorism of the United States. The economic terrorism of the United States disrupts the normal channels of trade and international cooperation and, as a result, ruthlessly deprives children with cancer and patients with diabetes,

multiple sclerosis, asthma and thalassemia as well as other patients with life-threatening or rare conditions of their basic right to health and life.

4. However, it is thought-provoking that the report at hand, though for the first time in many years, discusses in detail the impact of United States sanctions, avoids asking the United States Government to stop its genocidal sanctions and instead “encourages the Government [of Iran] to take all measures necessary to mitigate their effects”. The report even shies away from naming the United States or making any recommendations thereon. Avoiding complacency is the least expected form for the United Nations, while for the first time in the history of the United Nations, the United States – a permanent member of the Security Council – is engaging in penalizing nations across the world for abiding by a Council resolution, i.e. [2231 \(2015\)](#). It sounds alarming that a faulty assumption which assumes that coercion works continues making its way into the United Nations human rights mechanisms.

5. While Iranians, as the only relevant stakeholders, take the issue of human rights seriously, the Government is also cognizant of the existing deficiencies and excesses. Actually, the Government itself is at the forefront of promoting a discourse that encourages the protection of and respect for human rights at the national level. The Government earnestly encourages and believes in maintaining an open and dynamic society which ensures its citizens’ legitimate rights. The number of peaceful demonstrations that are held across the country on a daily basis is unprecedented within the context of the region that Iran is located in. Holding such a high number of peaceful assemblies is a clear indication of a vibrant, democratic and open society as well as a sign of strength. Meanwhile, civil society organizations are playing an ever-increasing role in all walks of social life in Iran, and the Government not only encourages it but enjoys their contribution and support in different fields. As an indicator, the number of registered non-governmental organizations in Iran has topped from 4,200 in 2013 to 8,600 in 2018.

6. At the international level, Iran insists on the promotion of mutual respect and dialogue as the right path to address any genuine concern regarding human rights while overwhelmingly rejecting all politicized and manipulative country-specific mandates. Iran seeks respectful dialogue without recrimination or blame game. Iran welcomes meaningful engagement with all serious partners. Iran is engaged in bilateral human rights dialogue and technical cooperation with several interested countries. Iran is committed to the universal periodic review while having extended its hands for further cooperation and dialogue to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The invitations to the High Commissioner and three thematic special rapporteurs to visit Iran are standing. Meanwhile, Iran has constructively engaged with the human rights treaty body mechanisms as well as human rights thematic mandate holders. Iran continues to call for dialogue based on understanding, cooperation and mutual respect.

7. However, no country leaves the safety and security of its citizens at the mercy of criminals, terrorists, separatists and spies; neither does Iran. It is no secret that the United States Government and co. are engaged in a fierce and full-fledged economic, political and media warfare against Iranians. The United States, in collaboration with a renowned cult – that until recently was on the United States terror list – is pumping blind hate, fabricating fake news and provoking disruption and acts of sabotage inside of Iran in a systematic and unprecedented manner. To protect its citizens, the Government is required to properly address activities that run counter to the objectives and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and principles of international law, including engagement in acts of terrorism or separatism as well as destruction of public order.

8. The biased mandate behind the report (A/74/273) makes the expectation of respect for impartiality and professionalism almost irrelevant. For instance, the report raises several serious arbitrary and extended interpretations of Member States' international commitments. Meanwhile, the report exposes its prejudice when it calls a demonstration "peaceful" wherein one of the participants ran his bus over bystander police officers, resulting in the death and injury of several of them. In addition, the report's attempt to establish new rights based on sexual orientation is a clear violation of the basic principles that the United Nations human rights machineries are expected to and should function upon. Imposing personal or ideological preferences as international commitment is a dangerous path that should be avoided. In another revealing case, the report – similar to the report of the country-specific special rapporteur – extensively addresses the situation of a few foreign individuals and Iranians with dual nationality who are detained on national security grounds. While the report does not miss the chance to mention the destiny of a former Federal Bureau of Investigation agent whose whereabouts are unclear, it fails to utter even a single word on the destiny of dozens of innocent Iranians around the world who are apprehended, imprisoned and prosecuted for allegedly violating the illegal sanctions imposed by the United States, among them a pregnant woman, university professors, elderly individuals and individuals in need of urgent medical care. Perhaps their human rights were not worthy enough to be mentioned in the report. This selective approach to the issue of human rights is detectable throughout the report.

9. Concerning its content and methodology, the report looks like a compendium of data haphazardly put together. It refers, frequently, to allegations made by sources that are well-known for their adversary positions against Iranians as well as producing and disseminating fake news against Iran. On the other hand, in their comments to the draft report, relevant authorities had provided extensive information on the measures undertaken for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country, and their inclusion in the final report was requested. Besides, given the availability of sufficient responses or clarifications, it was also requested that the inaccurate allegations in the draft be corrected or removed from the report. However, neither the provided comments are properly reflected nor are the wrongful allegations adequately rectified in the final text.

10. As expressed repeatedly, there is no special situation in Iran in need of a country-specific mandate or report. While the Islamic Republic of Iran unambiguously believes in multilateralism and international law, it regards this report as an unfortunate and counter-productive move in line with the political agenda of a few advocates of unilateralism and disrespect for international law and order. The report does nothing but further inflict harm to the prospects of progress towards the protection and promotion of human rights. The report and the mandate behind it are a non-starter for dialogue and understanding.