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مجلس حقوق الإنسان

الدورة الثانية والخمسون

27 شباط/فبراير - 31 آذار/مارس 2023

البند 4 من جدول الأعمال

حالات حقوق الإنسان التي تتطلب اهتمام المجلس بها

مذكرة شفوية مؤرخة 15 آذار/مارس 2023، موجهة من البعثة الدائمة لجمهورية إيران الإسلامية لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة في جنيف إلى رئيس مجلس حقوق الإنسان

بالإشارة إلى التقرير المعنون "حالة حقوق الإنسان في جمهورية إيران الإسلامية" (A/HRC/52/67)، تحيل البعثة الدائمة لجمهورية إيران الإسلامية لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة والمنظمات الدولية الأخرى في جنيف طيه تعليقات المجلس الأعلى لحقوق الإنسان في جمهورية إيران الإسلامية في هذا الصدد (انظر المرفق)، وتطلب نشر هذه المذكرة الشفوية ومرفقها* بوصفهما وثيقة من وثائق مجلس حقوق الإنسان.

وتود البعثة الدائمة أن تؤكد من جديد موقفها المتمثل في أن المقرر الخاص المعني بحالة حقوق الإنسان في جمهورية إيران الإسلامية مكلف بولاية فُرضت على مجلس حقوق الإنسان بموجب قرار ذي دوافع سياسية اقترحه بعض الدول الغربية، بما يتماشى مع مصالحها السياسية وبإساءة استخدام مجلس حقوق الإنسان. فالقرار وولايته لا يقوضان حقوق الإنسان فحسب، بل يضران أيضاً بمسألة حماية حقوق الإنسان وتعزيزها ويؤديان كذلك إلى نتائج.

* تُعمَّم كما وردت، باللغة التي قُدمت بها فقط.



مرفق المذكرة الشفوية المؤرخة 15 آذار/مارس 2023 الموجهة من البعثة
الدائمة لجمهورية إيران الإسلامية لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة في جنيف إلى
رئيس مجلس حقوق الإنسان

**The Comments of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Report
of Javaid Rehman to the 52nd Session of the High Council for
Human Rights dated March 2023**

A. Methodological Flaws:

On the strength of Article 3 of the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council (A/HRCRES/5/2 adopted on 18 June 2007): “Mandate-holders are independent United Nations experts. While discharging their mandate, they shall: (a) Act in an independent capacity, and exercise their functions in accordance with their mandate, through a professional, impartial assessment of facts based on internationally recognized human rights standards, and free from any kind of extraneous influence, incitement, pressure, threat or interference”. Unfortunately, in Javaid Rehman’s report, the assumption of allegations made by some fugitive criminals, the sources related to terrorist groups hostile to the Iranian nation, the repetition of issues and cases to which necessary responses have already been provided – on the basis of which Javaid Rehman attributed a large volume of unjust accusations to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The reliance of the prepared report on fake information churned out by some sects and terrorist groups leaves no room for Javaid Rehman’s claim of impartiality. Deviating from the framework of assigned duties, taking an aggressive and insulting approach, and making broad unfounded claims and accusations with a brazen tone in the report in question is emblematic of his convergence with the political objectives of the sponsors of the Resolution to extend his mandate.

The inappropriate and interventionist statements made by Javaid Rehman to support the criminals who endangered the safety of society and killed or injured passers-by, ordinary citizens, and law enforcement personnel with armes blanches and firearms, have no purpose other than exonerating rioters and, in fact, supporting impunity and granting immunity to the offenders.

Despite the fact that according to the provisions of the Human Rights Council Resolution 49/24, the mandate of Javaid Rehman is specifically to: “Report on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran”, from a logical point of view, in addition to mentioning accusations and claims about violations of human rights, the cases of protection and improvement of the human rights situation should also be raised. But unfortunately, regardless of the truth or falsity of the claims and accusations contained therein, the report is purposefully focused on a range of misleading and unconfirmed information; and the efforts, measures, and actions resulting in improving the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran have no place therein. This is while the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran continuously spares no effort to promote and protect the human rights of its citizens and has made significant progress and achievements in this regard; however, such positive cases are not reflected in the reports, or they are presented incompletely and with misleading analyzes and biased interpretations.

The reliance of the reports on false information obtained from fugitive criminals and terrorist groups – in addition to calling into question Javaid Rehman’s credibility, stability, goodwill, independence, and impartiality – has caused him to reach false conclusions based on fabricated data. The report is entirely contrary to the principles, criteria, and requirements set out in Resolution 5/2 adopted by the Human Rights Council on 18 June 2007 and annex thereto, the Code of Conduct of Special Procedures Mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council, in particular Articles 6 and 8 on the “necessity of obtaining facts through objective and reliable information from reliable sources” and “observing the principles of transparency, impartiality and prudence in collecting information”. On average, only about 10 percent of

the information sources mentioned in the reports are from Iran's domestic media, and that too in a distorted way, and the rest come from foreign media or foreign-based Persian outlets, which are primarily involved and have played a role in spreading fake news and false reports. This is enough to completely undermine and call into question the credibility of such reports, all of which fail to provide any valid, fair, and impartial assessment of the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In his reports, Javaid Rehman has always refrained from pointing out the negative, destructive, and deadly impacts of the illegal, cruel, and criminal unilateral coercive measures of the United States of America on the Iranian people's enjoyment of human rights and the international responsibility of the said government. This is an indication of the fact that his mandate was established purely based on political objectives. Not only did he show no will to address this issue in any of his previous reports, but in his latest report, the foregoing person rudely asked the international community and the sanctioning countries to press ahead with their sanctions, which have never been targeted, and the adverse consequences of which have violated the most fundamental rights of the Iranian nation. His terrible ignorance of the death of dozens of children and hundreds of innocent patients who died due to the lack of access to pharmaceuticals and medical equipment as a result of the United States' unilateral coercive measures – which is a clear violation of the “right to life” and the “right to health” of thousands of Iranian citizens – cannot be justified in any way. It is deplorable that Javaid Rehman has never joined any statement condemning the unilateral coercive measures, but his name is reflected in all other statements issued against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Javaid Rehman has also deliberately ignored the adverse effects of terrorist acts on the Iranian people's enjoyment of human rights and turned a blind eye to the responsibility of the perpetrators and supporters of such heinous acts that have claimed the lives of more than 17,000 innocent people over the past four decades. Javaid Rehman has regretfully adopted a completely different policy. Although in the final parts of his report (paragraph 74), he made a brief reference to the 26 October 2022 terrorist attack at Shah Cheragh holy shrine in Shiraz, during which the terrorists killed at least 15 innocent civilians and injured more than 40 others, but it is evident that the foregoing person – compared to other parts of the report, in which the dimensions and effects of the issues were addressed in a biased and intentional manner and sometimes explained in detail – simply turns a blind eye to such a heinous crime. It is very unfortunate that until the report in question was compiled, not only did the media and countries that claim to support human rights and actually support terrorism and terrorist groups remain tightlipped, the international human rights mechanisms – including the rapporteurs who issue statements for trivial and unreal matters – chose not to react to the terrorist attack.

The UN Special Procedures Mandate-holder shall avoid the fall of their mandate as a tool into the hands of terrorist and hostile groups and those with political agendas. Such an approach is against the Code of Conduct for the Special Procedures Mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council. Unfortunately, Javaid Rehman has turned his mandate into a platform for promoting hatred, violence, and discrimination against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iranian nation. It has also become a platform for terrorist and hostile groups.

Based upon its belief in human dignity and libertarian ideals, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always adhered to its obligations regarding promoting and protecting human rights. The positive achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this field over the past four decades affirm the Country's determination to respect, support, and promote human rights. The Islamic Republic of Iran finds the appointment of a country-specific special rapporteur for human rights unjustifiable, which is the product of resolutions based upon political goals and the application of pressure by certain countries, which basically does not have a basis for promoting human rights. Despite the appointment of a country-specific special rapporteur, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in addition to responding to all correspondence and holding various meetings with him at the diplomatic and legal levels notwithstanding a 5–7 day deadline, was determined to implement the policy of interaction with the special rapporteur in order to improve the content of his reports and minimize hasty judgments and allegations based upon untrue information. However, as the level of interaction increased, no results were obtained from the Special Rapporteur, and he even did not show the slightest desire to reflect Iran's comments and positions. He unilaterally spread and distributed only his baseless

claims and accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Javaid Rehman has been unable to gain Iran's trust due to his discriminatory policy. Of course, it is very evident that the appointment of this special rapporteur is due to a resolution tabled by the United Kingdom, and Javaid Rehman is a citizen of this country. Such an issue raises the issue of conflict of interest, with which the Human Rights Council shall deal. Therefore, due to the impossibility of reflecting Iran's comments and positions in Javaid Rehman's report, the Islamic Republic of Iran has decided to share its comments and considerations directly with the UN Member States, similar to what it did in response to the so-called Special Rapporteur's report to the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly. The Islamic Republic of Iran will actively continue interacting with other international human rights mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review, thematic special rapporteurs, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and treaty bodies. Providing comments on more than 60 percent of the correspondences sent by the Special Procedures Mandate-Holders since 2006, as verified on 15 February 2023 by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/52/3), which is one of the highest response rates, bears witness to the will of the Islamic Republic of Iran to continue such collaborations and interactions.

B. Contextual Flaws:

Paragraphs 1 to 12:

The targeted and long-term plots constructed and hatched by the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran to spark unrest and incite the rioters in the Country, including through disseminating fake news, orchestrating acts of terror and destruction, commanding the direct presence of operatives and terrorist groups in the street riots to destroy public property, and providing various equipment to confront the police and incendiaries for setting fire to public and personal buildings, property and vehicles, are all part of a pre-planned scenario developed by the adversaries of the Islamic Republic of Iran in parallel with the United States' illegitimate and cruel sanctions against the Iranian nation.

When the United States and certain Western countries failed to achieve their objectives against the Islamic Republic of Iran by applying or implementing cruel and illegal unilateral sanctions, they turned from the strategy of maximum pressure to a hybrid war. The saddening death of Mahsa Amini on 16 September 2022 caused these countries to ratchet up and implement their complex plot in a hybrid war that was supposed to commence under various pretexts. Therefore, Albeit the official reports produced by the Legal Medicine Organization, the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament), and the Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as the expert medical opinions, proved that no direct action by the law enforcement agents led to the death of the foregoing person, the riots however started – and basically, the issue of the deceased herself was forgotten. Peaceful protests quickly morphed into illegal processes and street riots due to negative media hype created by terrorist media outlets, including BBC and Iran International. Within a short period, and following the engagement of a network of professional and organized rioters egged on by the UK-based anti-Iran media outlet, the peaceful protests morphed into riots and acts of terror. Launching direct attacks on security, military, and law enforcement centers, executing the killing scheme among the protesting crowd, destroying medical centers and ambulances, as well as widespread vandalism of public places such as municipalities, fire engines, mosques, banks, and private property were put on the agenda.

The countries in question also sought to devise a pretext to deprive the people of comfort and spread unrest on the streets by resorting to widespread psychological warfare, killing schemes, building consensus among anti-Iranian groups, and using social media networks. Therefore, what was before people's eyes today was not civil protests, but destruction, violence, and insecurity by a rioting minority, which laid the groundwork for the entry and abuse of terrorist groups to carry out brutal attacks on innocent compatriots – two cases in point are the terrorist attacks in Shiraz's holy shrine of Shah Cheragh and Izeh. Investigations by the relevant authorities show that the rioters have killed several law enforcement forces and ordinary people. Moreover, during these incidents, damages worth thousands of billions of Tomans have been caused to Government, public and private centers. The Investigation Committee of the Ministry of Interior has been obliged to accurately and separately estimate the material and spiritual damages and determine the compensation method.

The zealous and noble Iranian tribes in the Country's border provinces have recently been the target of the enemy's plots to turn the protests into an ethnic and religious conflict. The riots were planned with the arrival of terrorist groups in Sistan & Baluchestan, Kurdistan, and West Azerbaijan provinces to create a cycle of violence and factionalism in the ranks of the nation. On the other hand, the Supreme Leader's special measures for the field management of incidents that took place in Zahedan in order to separate the innocent victims, console them and regard them as martyrs have brought stability and peace.

The universities, as one the most critical pillar of the realization of scientific authority and the driving force of national progress in the Country, were coveted by the enemy from the very beginning of the riots. Schools were also targeted to disturb the minds of families. Despite some violations of norms and illegal actions at certain universities, the will of the Government has been to prevent the environment of universities from becoming securitized and direct the students toward acquiring science and knowledge.

The extensive and unprecedented popular marches across the Country on the occasion of Pupil Day¹ completely changed the calculations of the hostile countries who were hell-bent on falsely portraying the people as rioters. Hence, through unprecedented smuggling of weapons into the Country, the enemies' spy agencies sought to spread acts of terror, such as directly shooting people at gatherings, conducting large-scale psycho-cognitive operations based on lies, and changing street riot tactics. Now that rioting and terrorism have come under control and the failure of the enemies have been unmasked owing to the patience and resourcefulness of the defenders of the homeland and the security, realities, and facts that hijab is not the principal issue for the enemy, and that the enemy is after countering the accelerated movement of the Country towards all-round progress, can be better understood.

Given the essential difference between the two dissatisfied and protesting groups and the terrorist rioters, the security forces' handling of the riots has been utterly different with regard to the damage caused to the people's security. Undoubtedly, the social protests and follow-up of people's demands for trade unions and livelihood rights, as in recent years, have been held in many ways and without no security issues whatsoever. Political protests against current processes in a peaceful manner have no relationship at all with the armed presence of rioters and terrorists in the streets who set fire to public and private property, brandished armes blanches and firearms against people and security guards, intimidated the public, and disrupted urban order. In this context, it should be noted that the smuggling, existence, and use of weapons are one of the tools and components of insecurity that can be used as a platform for committing other crimes at the community level. 16 gangs and organized arms smuggling networks have been identified during the riots.

From 17 September 2022 to 5 December 2022, 2,827 war weapons, 5,487 rebel firearms, and a total of 8,314 weapons have been seized.

The arrest of dozens of members of the notorious Monafeqeen Terrorist Organization and other terrorists, including the mercenaries of terrorist groups known as Komalah, Democrat, PAK, PJAK, and some of the high-ranking officials of the abovenamed terrorist groups who were conspiring against the oppressed people of Kordestan on both sides of the western borders of the Country, all bears witness to heinous crimes committed by the terrorists. Among those arrested is a prominent member of one of the terrorist groups stationed in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. He has received military training in the U.S.-Zionist bases located in the said region and is regarded as a military commander. He was designing, organizing, and directing the riotous cells in the country's western region, but was arrested and transferred to predetermined locations during a surprise operation and is currently incarcerated. A member of a Takfiri terrorist group carrying 36 kilograms of explosives, who was planning to bomb places of public gatherings and riots during the unrest and attribute the explosions to each side in order to exacerbate the conflict therebetween, was also arrested. In addition to the plan to assassinate one of the Country's top officials, the terrorist in question was set to blow up a sensitive industrial center, and detonate a bomb in a mourning

¹ On the morning of 4 November 1978, 56 pupils were killed and hundred of them were injured by the Shah's notorious regime. Iranians remember the massacre of the pupils who had gathered at the campus of University of Tehran to protest against the regime of the Shah.

congregation in Shiraz as well as the Martyrs Square of the city of Mashhad, but they were foiled.

Planning to blow up one of the sensitive industrial centers, assassinate one of the Country's top officials, detonate a bomb in a mourning congregation in Shiraz as well as the Martyrs Square in the city of Mashhad, the discovery of a significant number of handguns, various types of machine guns, cartridges and shotguns from some detainees, the large-scale entry of members affiliated with the Baha'i spy organization into the scene of the riots to encourage vandalism and destruction of public places based on the directive of the said spy Organization's headquarters based in the occupied Haifa, conducting dozens of other acts of subversion, and the unflinching support of the rioters by the American and European authorities, prove the decision of the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran to create chaos in the Country.

Another plot of the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran to ignite the fire of the recent riots is a recurring phenomenon called serial killing schemes in cyberspace – a tactic the enemy has been using for many years to create insecurity and psychological warfare. The anti-Revolution networks, in order to implement the serial killing scheme that they are fueling, make up a false story, and after clarifying its angles for the people, they move on to another one. Mahsa Amini, Nika Shakarami, Hadis Najafi, Sarina Esmailzadeh, etc., are some of the names mentioned in the scheme in question, whose creators do not shy away from resorting to any inhumane actions, lies, and falsification of reality in processing and writing their scenario.

As per the 3 December 2022 statement released by the National Security Council, nearly 200 people have been killed during the riots. Those killed include: security martyrs, people's martyrs who lost their lives during terrorist attacks in Izeh and Shah Cheragh, innocent victims of the killing schemes executed by terrorist grouplets, innocent people who died during the security mayhem, rioters (especially those attacking police stations and military headquarters), and anti-Revolution armed elements of subversive groups at border areas.

It should be noted that during the riots, information about the incidents, the number of dead and public recommendations about the killing scheme of terrorist groups were regularly conveyed to society and public opinion by the mass media. In this context, we can refer to the official statements of the National Security Council, the Security Council of Sistan & Baluchestan Province, as well as reports and interviews of police officials. Therefore, the claim made in this paragraph regarding cover-up is categorically invalid and incompatible with the Government's transparent information policy, especially given the existing terrorist threat against citizens.

In relation to the allegations suggesting the disruption of the Internet and restricting access to some social network platforms, be advised that in Iran's law, the right to freedom of expression has been recognized – of course, certain restrictions have been placed thereon. The aforesaid right is protected and guaranteed under Articles 24 and 175 of the Constitution. The right to freedom of expression is manifested in the Iranian legal system in various fields such as press, radio, television, and cyberspace. The Law on Dissemination of and Free Access to Information, enacted on 22 August 2009, recognizes the right of free access to public information for all Iranians. The level of violence and destruction was such that it threatened the order and security of society. Using the platform of certain virtual networks, the violent rioters took advantage of the civil protests and diverted the peaceful gatherings. Contrary to their basic principles and conditions of dealing with violent, hateful, and extremist content, the two platforms, namely Instagram and WhatsApp, did not create any restrictions even for terrorist groups and, in fact, started to promote the rioters' violent and terrorist content. By abusing the aforesaid platforms, the members of terrorist groups such as the Monafeqeen Terrorist Organization, Jaish al-Adl, PJAK, Komalah, KDPI, PAK, as well as the Arab Struggle Movement for the Liberation of Ahwaz, promoted terror and violence, and the managers of these platforms surprisingly and in a completely politically motivated and biased manner, refused to impose any restrictions. Exploiting cyberspace, the terrorist groups and the authorities of certain countries have acted to incite and encourage even children to hit the streets and commit violent and dangerous behaviors, thus exposing many of the fundamental rights of children to serious violations. At the same time as certain western countries and terrorist groups incited and encouraged people to perpetrate previously-planned

violence during the riots, the Islamic Republic of Iran temporarily restricted two platforms being exploited to achieve the said objectives. In this regard, the following essential points have to be taken into consideration:

- The first point is that such restrictions have been imposed in accordance with the Islamic Republic of Iran's laws as well as international obligations arising from international treaties;
- The second point is that the Islamic Republic of Iran has not blocked people's access to the Internet, and all domestic and foreign messaging apps and websites (except Instagram and WhatsApp) have been available to the public without any restrictions;
- The third point is that even in spite of the relative and controlled restrictions on the abovementioned platforms, it should be noted that many people have access thereto via VPNs, and the publication of photos and videos, many of which are against the terms and principles of the said platforms, in the cyberspace proves this point;
- The fourth point is that the restrictions are completely limited and temporary. As pointed out by the relevant authorities, they will be lifted should the managers of the aforementioned platforms accept Iran's reasonable conditions, adhere to their basic principles, and prevent the spread of hatred and violence; and
- The fifth point is that all the temporary and legal restrictions have been applied in order to protect and guarantee the rights of citizens, the security of society, and public order. In this framework, a particular focus has been placed on protecting children's rights so that they will not be exposed to such violent content.

Paragraphs 13 to 22:

Due to non-compliance with the binding hijab law and the impossibility of redressing the state of attire when facing the police, Mahsa Amini had been transferred to a conference hall belonging to the Department of Social Affairs and Education for Women in the Public Security Police in the absence of any verbal abuse, physical or coercive maltreatment in order to receive the necessary training. She, however, suddenly lost consciousness and fell to the ground after 26 minutes. Initial measures implemented by a doctor stationed in the Public Security Police and emergency services, as well as her immediate referral to the hospital, have all failed to bear fruit. Finally, she was pronounced dead despite several rounds of cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Following the transfer of the foregoing person to the hospital, the Legal Medicine Organization – on the order of the Tehran Prosecutor – immediately sent a specialized team to handle the case and conduct a detailed examination of her therein. Once informed of the death, the body of the deceased was transferred to the Dissection Hall of the Tehran Province Diagnostic and Laboratory Centre, where a physical examination and autopsy were performed thereon. In dealing with the case, all the criteria and indicators for determining the cause of the death, physical examination, and internal organs of the body as well as samples taken from the tissues and internal organs thereof, were sent to specialized laboratories so that – as soon as the results of the tests were received and taking into account the results of the examinations and the autopsy, the contents of the hospital file and her medical records, as well as the opinions of experts in related fields, all of which were gathered under the supervision of a special medical commission formed in the Legal Medicine Organization by order of the Tehran Prosecutor – the real cause of the death would subsequently be unraveled and notified to the judicial authority. In a statement released on 7 October 2022, the Legal Medicine Organization explained the cause of the death. Stipulating that her death was not caused by blows to the head or any vital organs and parts of the body, the statement reads:

“A brief description of the report of the cause of the death of the late Mahsa Amini submitted to the judicial authority based upon the hospital record of brain surgery for craniopharyngioma in Milad Hospital back in 2007, the medical record of Kasra Hospital at the time leading up to her death, the description of the physical examination of the body and autopsy, the results of toxicology tests and pathology, judicial investigations and numerous specialized and sub-specialized expert committees, are hereby announced as follows: After undergoing craniopharyngioma surgery to remove a brain tumor at the age of 8, the deceased developed a disorder in the important hypothalamus-pituitary axis and the glands under its’

command, including adrenal and thyroid. Due to the underlying disease, the deceased was treated with hydrocortisone, levothyroxine, and desmopressin. On 13 September 2022 at 19:56, she suddenly lost consciousness and subsequently fell to the ground. Given the underlying disease, the deceased did not have the necessary ability to cope with and get a hold of the situation; therefore, she developed a disorder in her heart rhythm and suffered from a decrease in blood pressure and subsequently decreased level of consciousness. A cardio-respiratory resuscitation operation proved ineffective, and in the first critical minutes, she suffered from severe hypoxia and brain damage as a result. Notwithstanding the recommencement of heart function following the resuscitation operation conducted by the emergency room personnel, the respiratory support proved ineffective, and despite her admittance to the hospital and efforts invested by the medical staff of Kasra Hospital, the patient was pronounced dead on 16 September 2022, given multiple organ failure caused by cerebral hypoxia. It should be noted that on the strength of hospital medical documents, the examination of CT scan of the brain and lungs, the results of physical examination of the body and autopsy, as well as pathology tests, death was not caused by blows to the head or any vital organs and parts of the body.”

The death of the foregoing person was seriously followed up on at all the levels of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including by the Supreme Leader, the President, and the Chief of the Judiciary. In the implementation of paragraph (7) of Article 45 of the Internal Bylaw of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament) of the Islamic Republic of Iran and following an order issued by the Speaker of the Assembly dated 16 September 2022 appertaining to investigations into the death of Mahsa Amini on the same date in Kasra Hospital, the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the Internal and Councils Affairs Commission – in addition to forming a special committee by inviting relevant officials from the Greater Tehran Police Command, Public Security Police, the Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Inspectorate thereof, the Legal Medicine Organization and Tehran Emergency Center – thoroughly examined the incident, and presented the following report after hearing the explanations and receiving written reports from all relevant bodies:

“The Internal and Councils Affairs Commission, while expressing its’ sympathy with the family of the deceased and regret for the incident, offers its’ condolences to the grieving family. According to the merits of the case, written announcements made by the relevant bodies, explanations of the relevant officials, full review of the footage recorded by CCTV cameras of the Public Security Police, minutes of the local examination and field investigations conducted by the Special Inspectorate of the Greater Tehran Police Command, statements produced by those present on the stage and in the conference hall of the Department of Social Affairs and Education for Women in the Public Security Police, several citizens, businesses and drivers of passenger cars located in the aforesaid place, examination of evidence and documents, the points enumerated hereinunder are presented for the awareness of the honorable people of Iran and esteemed members of the Parliament: There has been no assault or physical attack during the dealing with, transfer to and stationing of the deceased in the Public Security Police Headquarters. According to the report of the Legal Medicine Organization (which has been prepared based upon hospital records, physical examination, autopsy, sampling, and specialized tests), it is declared that the death of the foregoing person has not been caused due to physical contact, beating or any blows to her body. Based on this, those who made hasty and bogus statements without any investigations and before different dimensions of the matter had not even come to light, hurt public sentiments and laid the foundations for the abuse of the incident by enemies of the Establishment, the United States, the usurping and illegitimate Zionist regime and their followers as well as the rioters, shall either rectify their statements or be prosecuted according to the faults they committed.”

Therefore, the repetition of baseless claims, including that the abovenamed was “violently beaten while being forcibly transferred to Vozara detention center”, or referring to the words of some people entirely unfamiliar with the subject, is indicative of the fact that the content is biased.

Paragraphs 23 & 24:

Considering the legal responsibility of law enforcement officers to maintain and restore the order and security of the State and deal with riots disrupting public order and security, and in

order to protect the rights of citizens, since the very beginning of the unrest, various anticipatory and subsequent measures have been implemented in line with the legal tasks of dealing with insecurity to observe the rule of law and observe the Sharia and legal limits. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is actively and innovatively committed to complying with the legal, religious, and moral obligations arising from the legal and political system thereof, preventing harm to citizens while dealing with riots, as well as unmasking the truth about the allegations and claims, and safeguarding the interests of public rights.

The law enforcement officers were repeatedly given official orders to avoid the possession and use of weapons from the very beginning of the riots. Here you can refer to these such orders. On 22 September 2022, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran stressed: “The use of combat firearms by the officers responsible for dealing with the rioters is forbidden, and they should only use anti-riot equipment and tools. In very rare and necessary cases, only the use of non-lethal weapons, such as paintballs and gas launchers, is authorized.” On 21 September 2022, the Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps also signed off on a notification appertaining to the “non-use and non-carrying of any firearms in dealing with the riots”. The Commander-in-Chief of the Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran has also issued a notice concerning “the prohibition of using firearms of any kind to deal with the rioters and control street riots and the need to the use other police tactics and equipment at disposal for managing street gatherings and riots.” Be advised that irrespective of the fact that some of the rioters in all parts of the Country have entered the armed phase, the lenient policy of not using firearms to deal with the riots and violations of the law is still in force – which is emblematic of the level of Government’s effort to protect its citizens, even the offenders. Even in response to attacks on sensitive, military places and headquarters, where according to legal teachings, it is possible to use weapons and lethal force, all the emphasis is on the non-use of combat rifles. In addition, the policy of harm reduction and maximum avoidance of violence as a doctrine to deal with chaos tops the agenda of the law enforcement officers responsible for safeguarding order and public security. The acting forces are trained in this regard. Dispersing the rioters without resorting to violence, setting a deadline to leave the scene, training patient forces who can control their emotions when dealing with the crowd, paying particular attention to children and women as much as possible, and coordinating with medical centers to provide quick aid to the wounded are a few examples of the principles taught under the aforesaid doctrine, about which all operational forces are justified.

During the recent riots, the police force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the principal guardian of public security and order, exercised utmost restraint and tolerance and tried to calm the situation through the use of non-coercive methods with the aim of protecting citizens and public and private properties. The martyrdom of tens of law enforcement officers and the injury of more than 7,000 of them bear witness to the intensity of violence perpetrated by the rioters and the presence of violent elements in non-peaceful gatherings who disturbed public security and order. In line with its’ expertise-oriented approach, the Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran provides focused training to all the forces under its command in various fields. In peaceful and non-peaceful gatherings, expert and trained forces are employed and dispatched to the scene to maintain social order and security. Human rights constitute one of the main components of the curricula of the Specialized University of Law Enforcement Sciences². On the first day of the protests, which in some places morphed into riots in a wholly pre-planned manner, the Commander-in-Chief of the Law Enforcement forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran – in a bid to protect the rights of the citizens – signed off on a directive to all police forces throughout the Country to exercise maximum self-restraint. The directive emphasized upon the followings:

- Prohibition of carrying weapons by police forces during the protests;
- Prohibition of entering universities and education centers by police forces;
- Necessity to respect the rights of detainees, including the prohibition of any assault or offensive action there against;

² This University is mostly known as Amin Police Academy, which is affiliated with the Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

- Prohibition of any arbitrary detention;
- Provision of all treatment and medical services to detainees; and
- Guaranteeing the right of detainees to contact their families and having access to lawyers.

The Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran follows an intelligent and social-oriented model in dealing with unrest and riots³. The model is defined in several steps, on the basis of which individual and group training are predicted, planned, and implemented. Based upon this model, before direct engagement for dispersing the rioters, police forces take the following measures as the first steps: negotiation, persuasion, use of water cannons and paintball guns, and the next steps would include the use of personal equipment (shield, anti-impact clothing, etc.), general equipment (LRADs, light projectors, sprinklers, etc.) and non-lethal weapons (paintball and tear gas) with a view to minimizing damage. Examination of the records of missions assigned to the police over the last few years bears witness to the fact that whenever they have made interventions, there have been minimal complaints against them regarding respecting citizens' rights. According to this approach and in the face of the recent unrest and riots, it was tried to implement the necessary measures to maintain order and security of the society while minimizing the damage to the rioters and respecting the rights of citizens. Public order requires that decision to stage gatherings be notified to the police, as they are the ones tasked with maintaining security and public order. The presence of the police in gatherings is of paramount importance because it is to ensure that no harm is inflicted thereupon, to safeguard security thereof, and to maintain public order and guarantee the public safety of society.

According to Note 2 of Article 4 of the Law of the Police, confronting and fighting against any acts of sabotage, terrorism, rebellion, and acts that disturb State security in a decisive and unceasing fashion, and on the strength of Note 3 of the aforesaid Article, ensuring the security of gatherings, assemblies, marches, legal and authorized activities, preventing any unauthorized assemblies, marches, and gatherings, as well as dealing with disturbance, disorder, and illegal activities are among the duties assigned to the Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Nevertheless, the police have adopted an approach based upon five criteria, as referred to hereinunder, in order to restore order, establish security, and deal with rioters and illegal gatherings:

- Exercising tolerance and restraint;
- Calling for calm via delivering speeches and verbal warnings;
- Dispersing gatherings without resorting to deterrent means;
- Using control equipment according to the law, if deemed necessary; and
- Placing rioters under arrest.

Paragraphs 25 to 27:

As mentioned earlier, the killing scheme is one of the plots and schemes seriously pursued by the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The report in question has referred to the news churned out by certain media outlets affiliated with the hostile countries and has made unsubstantiated claims regarding the killing of people, especially teenagers. Upon receiving reports and news about the deaths of under-18 children during the riots, the High Council for Human Rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran followed up on the issue with sensitivity and urgency to clarify the existing facts. The investigations prove that a number of these people had died before the start of the riots, some had lost their lives due to an accident or an accident, and some others had been murdered by bullets fired from non-organizational weapons – and all of them, in line with the killing scheme hatched by the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, have been referred to as those killed during the riots. Laying a

³ On the strength of Articles 4 and 55 of the Law on the Use of Weapons by Armed Forces Officers in Necessary Cases, police officers are authorized to use firearms in order to restore order, control illegal marches, quell riots, disorder and unrest that cannot be controlled without the use of weapons, maintain order and security during illegal armed marches, armed unrest and riots, and to defend themselves and the lives of other civilians.

particular emphasis on executing the killing scheme by attributing every murder and incident to the security and law enforcement forces, or targeting rioters in the scene by hired terrorists and attributing it to the military forces have been the modus operandi of the adversaries of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. For example, the investigations show that Nika Shakarami, Sarina Esmailzadeh, and Setareh Tajik died after committing suicide by jumping from a height, or Amir Mehdi Farrokhipour lost his life during an accident (he was riding a motorcycle and hit the street curb). Therefore, the deaths of these people were unrelated to the recent riots, and no bullet marks were found on their bodies.

The rioters resorted to various methods of violence during the riots, such as murder, harming citizens, destroying and setting fire to public and private properties, and the like. The martyrdom and injury of a considerable number of law enforcement forces as well as the destruction and burning of over 1,200 public and private properties and equipment, are only part of the rioters' destructive and violent actions. While firmly believing in respecting children's rights in all areas, the Islamic Republic of Iran opposes any actions – especially those perpetrated by foreign-based media outlets – that incite and provoke children to participate in riots, and believes that acts of such nature are entirely contrary to the international obligations of countries and lead to severe violations of the rights of children.

Paragraphs 28 to 30:

The statistics in the paragraphs in question are incorrect. Regarding the allegations made therein, the following points are hereby presented for consideration:

- On the strength of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, minorities enjoy all the freedoms and rights of citizens. Articles 10, 33, 77, 97, and 110 of the Charter on Citizens' Rights, guarantee the rights of religious minorities, ethnic groups, and social and political tendencies, prohibit any form of hatred, especially towards children, discrimination in employment, access to information and acquisition of knowledge for minorities, ethnic groups and social or political groups, and stress the right to intercultural communication. In addition, the plan to criminalize insulting Iranian religions and ethnic groups as stipulated in the Constitution was approved in Parliament by an overwhelming majority on 19 May 2020. Therefore, the freedom to adhere to religious beliefs and practice rituals thereof, the right to form associations and various institutions, the right to membership in the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the city and village councils, the right to equal education, the right to participate in public affairs and to obtain government positions, all prove the non-existence of discrimination among Iranian citizens based on ethnicity and religion.
- Concerning the 30 September 2020 incident in Zahedan, be advised that on Friday, the 30th of September 2022, at the end of the Friday prayer in the Great Mosalla prayer complex in Zahedan, a number of extremist and armed elements attacked a police station adjacent to the prayer complex and intended to capture it. Having a previous plan, the armed individuals – in addition to causing riots in the city and attacking two other police stations – vandalized and set fire to public property. They also looted and set fire to a fire engine, an emergency center, as well as several chain stores and banks. The armed individuals also sprayed the police station and ordinary people with bullets and threw Molotov cocktails at the police station. Unfortunately, some fellow citizens and worshipers lost their lives or sustained injuries during the attack and following clashes between the attackers and the defense forces of the police station. According to the statistics announced by the relevant local officials, the terrorist incident left at least 19 citizens dead and injured 32 security and law enforcement personnel. In the meantime, four IRGC and Basij members were martyred. Following the incidents, a delegation appointed by the Supreme Leader traveled to Sistan & Baluchestan province on 13 November 2022 to launch a thorough investigation into the Zahedan terrorist attacks and comfort the families of those who lost their lives and sustained injuries during the recent incidents therein. During the visit, the Supreme Leader's special envoy and his accompanying delegation met with prominent Shia and Sunni clerics and Imams, doyens, officials, and various groups of the province. They conveyed the Supreme Leader's sympathy and condolences to the families of law enforcement martyrs and victims of recent incidents. It was decided to make

compensations for the damages and deal with the perpetrators of the terrorist incidents and offenders in a decisive fashion.

- Concerning the allegations made in Paragraph 30, it deserves a mention that the Islamic Republic of Iran is made up of various ethnic groups, including but not limited to Kurds, Baloch, Turks, Arabs, Lurs, Persians, and none of which are considered minorities. Kurdish compatriots in Iran are NOT considered to be among the minorities, but given the diversity and multiplicity of ethnicities of the population in Iran, they are one of the purest and deep-rooted Iranian ethnic groups, which, as evidenced by history, have a brilliant record in supporting the territorial integrity of the Country. It is bitterly surprising and regrettable that not only has there been no statement in support of the victims of terrorism and to condemn the unending killings of the Kurdish people of Iran by the Komalah, PKK, and the so-called Democrat terrorist groups, Javaid Rehman – in a completely biased stance – attributes the killing of citizens, including children and women, to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This comes as the operations against the terrorist groups supported by the West in Kurdish areas have left several peacekeeping officers martyred, with dozens sustaining injuries or becoming disabled.
- Considering the presence of certain separatist terrorist groups outside the Country's northwestern borders and, as a result, the malicious activities thereof in the border wall areas of Iran and in order to unmask the real nature of these terrorist groups, some of the terrorist and terrifying actions and activities thereof in the aforesaid border areas are announced hereinunder:

PJAK Terrorist Group (Iranian Branch of P.K.K):

Since its establishment on 27 November 1978, the P.K.K claimed to be the leader of all parts of the Kurdish regions of the four countries of Iran, Iraq, Turkey, and Syria. The policy of this terrorist group was also based on armed guerilla struggle and sabotage operations and, in some cases, on suicide operations. In order to terrorize and endanger the security of the citizens of the Kurdish regions, the PKK terrorist group also made preparations for establishing the PJAK terrorist group in Iran since the early 20s, the policy of which was also declared to be an armed struggle and terrorist operations. Since the beginning of its activities in Iran, the PJAK terrorist group has carried out various forms of criminal actions such as assassination, bombing, kidnapping, torture, child recruitment, armed robbery, extortion, and destruction of citizens' property.

Komala Terrorist Group:

This terrorist group's policy is to carry out acts of terrorism and intimidation against citizens in some Kurdish areas northwest of the Country. The main camp of this terrorist group is located in the Iraqi Kurdish region. The Komala terrorist group uses light and heavy military equipment such as 106mm recoilless rifles, the Katyusha rocket launchers, L16 81mm mortars, 120mm mortars, AK-47, RPG-7, grenades, etc. It is worth mentioning that the aforesaid terrorist group has designed and carried out many terrorist operations, including assassinations, kidnappings, bombings, extortion, threats, etc., against ordinary and defenseless people. The terrorist group also has a history of cooperation with dictator Saddam's former Iraqi Ba'athist regime during eight years of imposed war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. In any case, terrorizing actions against ordinary citizens, terrorist attacks on police forces, and destruction of property and public buildings are among the other terrorist activities of the Komala terrorist group. Moreover, the bombing incident in Mahabad on 22 September 2010, which left 12 innocent women and children dead and over 60 others injured, is one of the terrorist operations conducted by the Komala terrorist group.

Terrorist Kurdistan Democratic Party:

After the 1979 victory of the Islamic Revolution, the terrorist Kurdistan Democratic Party, in addition to launching a terrorist attack on the Mahabad garrison, captured parts of the Kurdish cities and regions in the northwest of the Country and engaged in armed terrorist operations to divide the Kurdish-populated regions. Since its formation, this terrorist group and the Komala terrorists have killed and injured thousands of Iranian citizens in armed conflicts and terrorist operations. The major crimes of the aforesaid terrorist group include

murder, assassination, torture, extortion, armed robbery, human trafficking, and kidnapping so as to create terror and insecurity among the people of the Country's northwestern regions.

Paragraphs 31 to 33:

- The fact that many mourning ceremonies for the victims of the recent riots have been held in different cities disproves the contradictory claims made, and is against the mental model that Javaid Rehman is hell-bent on creating – as seen under the title of “Violence and killings in mourning ceremonies” in paragraph 31 of the report.
- Contrary to the undocumented, hasty generalizations and claims, the Islamic Republic of Iran has tried to exhibit maximum tolerance since the beginning of the riots and distinguish between the protesting citizens and the rioters who destroy public property. According to the instructions of the police and the enactments of the National Security Council, the police did not carry combat and lethal weapons and only used protective tools for themselves. Therefore, claims such as shooting in the head or targeting women with shotgun fire to their genitals are unsubstantiated and hallucinations aimed at arousing public opinion.
- Due to the substantive difference between the two protesting dissatisfied groups and the terrorist rioters, the security forces' treatment of the riots has been entirely different due to the damage they have inflicted upon the security of the people.
- Indeed, social protests and follow-up of people's trade union and livelihood rights – as held in various forms during the recent years and without the slightest security issue – as well as peaceful political demonstrations against the existing processes have no relation whatsoever with the armed presence of the anti-Revolution elements in the streets, burning of public and private properties, brandishing firearms and armed blanches against people and security guards, intimidating the public, and disrupting urban order. Therefore, violence in different dimensions shall be considered the boundary between protests and riots.
- Health centers have continued to render their services in different regions and areas that were the scene of riots, regardless of any pressure or security orders. Unfortunately, fake reports about the use of ambulances by the security forces, including those disseminated by terrorist groups, have been used to incite the protesters to attack ambulances and health centers. According to the official report of the Minister of Health, Treatment and Medical Education, until 27 September 2022, 72 ambulances had been vandalized by the rioters; and, as announced by the Head of the National Medical Emergency Organization on 23 November 2022, the number of targeted ambulances reached 159. The vandalization of ambulances caused emergency missions to drop by 800 per day. The reports of security agencies reveal that some terrorists, in order to promote their fake narratives, resorted to false flag operations and stole ambulances with which they could drive around the city faster.

Paragraphs 34 to 37:

Regarding the cases raised in paragraph 34, be advised that in dealing with the rioters due to their terrorist nature, there has been no ethnic, religious, or gender policy by law enforcement and security agencies. Therefore, referring to the number Azerbaijani-Turks detained, regardless of the inaccuracy of the alleged statistics, is merely an accusation made by Javaid Rehman to mislead the public and paint a black picture of the situation and status of ethnicities in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Regarding the number of arrested individuals, it is announced that the majority of those arrested during the recent riots, except those who committed murder or caused significant damage to public and private property, as well as members of terrorist groups – 49 members of the notorious Monafeqeen Terrorist Organization, 77 separatist terrorists and members of PJAK (Iranian branch of P.K.K., Komalah, and the terrorist Kurdistan Democratic Party), 5 Daesh terrorists and 28 thugs and mobsters with a history of public disturbance in riots – were released in the very first hour and days of arrest. Owing to the suggestion of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution on 3 October 2022 regarding the treatment of those present at the scene of the riots, more than 80% of the detainees were freed after being transferred to detention centers in the early hours of the arrest and following discussions and guidance. It

is reminded that no one was detained for peaceful protest during the riots. Only the agents of insecurity, rioters, and those violating the rights of the people have been dealt with legally in accordance with rules and regulations; and, they have been handed over to the judicial authority after the arrest. The arrested individuals, after it is learned that they were holding no malicious intention, as well as those who were deceived and subsequently carried away under the influence of paroxysms, have all been released right after the initial investigation – only those who have committed criminal and violent acts remain in custody. The detainees enjoy all the rights stipulated in the Code of Criminal Procedure as well as the regulations of the State Prisons Organization, guarantees of a fair trial including the principle of presumption of innocence and right of access to a lawyer; and while in custody, they benefit from all available facilities such as medical services, telephone calls and the possibility of meeting with their family members. The Chief of the Judiciary has personally contacted the relevant judicial officials, paid a visit to the Court of Security Crimes, and issued the necessary orders to commence fair and quick proceedings against the detainees. In addition, owing to the 5 February 2023 amnesty proposed by the Chief of the Judiciary and granted by the Supreme Leader, a significant number of those for whom a court case had been filed because of participating in the riots and judgments had been pronounced thereagainst were granted amnesty, pardoned, or had their sentences commuted.

It is reminded that many human rights and social affairs activists, especially in the field of women, as well as journalists, are active in the Islamic Republic of Iran freely and without let or hindrance. However, the commission of any abuse or misconduct under the pretext of social activists, lawyers, reporters, actors/actresses, athletes, or similar titles shall not negate judicial liability thereof. Bestowing the title of women human rights defender to those who have ignored the norms of society and committed illegal actions with their antisocial behavior, is an affront to genuine human rights advocates.

Paragraph 38

Reports in this regard have been exaggerated, especially that many who had been deceived due to psychological warfare and organized incitement by terrorist media outlets, such as BBC and Iran International, were teenagers. Therefore, it was discussed by social psychologists, specialized think tanks, executive managers, and academic experts and somehow attracted media coverage. Most of the arrested juveniles were released after being transferred to detention centers and following discussions and guidance in the early hours of arrest.

Allegations suggesting that children are kept in adult detention centers are devoid of any truth. Because as stated earlier, the arrested persons under 18 were immediately released on bail or other judicial provisions. And in a few cases, the persons were immediately transferred to special detention centers exclusive to their age to the seriousness of the crimes committed. In addition, the figure of 683 arrested students is entirely incorrect, illusory, fabricated, and even contrary to the statistics mentioned in the cited source in the report's footnote.

Paragraph 39:

In relation to the claims raised in the paragraph in question, be advised that given the ban on the entry of armed forces into universities and educational centers and the instructions of the National Security Council regarding legal gatherings, even in the event of riots, security institutions as well as military and law enforcement agencies are not allowed to enter the premises of higher educational centers, and universities. Therefore, the allegations made in this regard are invalid, and there is no official report or even unofficial but documented claim about this matter. The Student Disciplinary Committee is the authority to investigate the students who rioted in the university environment. The disciplinary committees of each university have considered punishments according to law for rioters according to the extent of destruction of varsity property. Most of them have been pardoned thanks to the Supreme Leader's amnesty on 5 February 2023 and following the President's remarks on the 44th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, who emphasized the pardoning of cases related to Government institutions.

Paragraphs 40 to 43:

During the recent riots, the United States and certain western countries have used all their capacity and tools to advance their political interests by instrumentalizing the media to the maximum. To that end, the western media have even deviated from their professional principles and policies, diminishing their credibility. The outlets that somehow consider themselves “reliable” and “authoritative” and have a history of several decades now resort to publishing reports that run entirely counter to their claims. In the current propaganda campaign, it seems that western media outlets do not place a premium on “media credibility” and easily sacrifice it in order to pursue their objectives. In the meantime, the U.S.-owned CNN, which has stolen its opponents’ thunder in propagating undocumented news and generating fake statistics, has on several occasions disseminated counterfeit reports, the content analysis of which shows that this so-called authoritative and reliable media outlet has embarked on spreading falsehoods and making contradictory claims. A review of reports churned out by CNN has unmasked the fact that it considers itself an “authoritative” media outlet, confirming outrageous claims made by other outlets and people. For instance, as far as the case of Nika Shakarami is concerned, CNN has published false, fictitious, undocumented, and baseless claims and accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran. It was expected that CNN would stop spreading lies and refrain from making hateful and provocative remarks after its lies about Nika Shakarami were exposed. However, the recent spurious claims and accusations made by CNN concerning the rape of and sexual violence against protestors arrested in Iran are indicative of the fact that credibility and authority do not have the slightest importance for this media outlet and that following a political and anti-human rights policy to incite and encourage the Iranian people to riot is primarily essential for this network.

CNN’s New Scheme & Continued Dissemination of Fabricated Reports

CNN published a new report for the second time after its initial report on Nika Shakarami. It was published on 21 November 2022 and alleged “harassment and sexual assault” of detainees in Iran. The report can be examined from various dimensions, and the detailed investigations having been already conducted reveal the existing contradictions.

CNN calls its new report “special” and a so-called “investigative” one; however, the requirements of a special and investigative report are not seen therein. That is because, in an investigative report, citations and references are made to institutions, organizations, authorities, or solid and corroborative documents. But the report in question lacks any trace of such references and citations.

Throughout the report, CNN has cited only “witnesses” and “sources” and has refused to mention names under the pretext of protecting their “security.” When a source is referred to in a report, the credibility of the report is naturally achieved when people or entities other than the producer can verify the claims or when the documents and evidence are strong enough to dispel any doubts.

Now the question is: is it possible for an individual and an institution other than CNN to examine the so-called evidence? It is only possible to review the evidence at CNN’s headquarters! The media outlet begins its report story-like, quoting people who are by no means clear who they are. There is no name of a person and no reference to an authoritative institution in the report.

In part of the report, the American news channel refers to alleged videos that “purportedly” show the sexual harassment of “protesting women” in the streets!

At the end of the report, CNN admits that it relied on “sources and survivors in Iran risked their freedoms and security to report the sexual violence.” This is CNN’s only explanation of the evidence based upon which it wrote the report!

Allegations of Sexual Violence Against Armita Abbasi

But the main point of CNN’s new report revolves around Armita Abbasi’s case. The report alleges Armita Abbasi has faced sexual violence, and CNN, which considers itself an “authority,” “confirmed” the allegation. Recently, allegations regarding a girl named “Armita Abbasi” were published on social media, suggesting that after a week of detention, she was transferred to a hospital in Karaj, where it was found that she had been raped.

According to the investigations, Abbasi stated during her arrest that she had a problem with her bowels. Subsequently, following a judicial order, she was sent to Imam Ali Hospital in Karaj for treatment. After conducting medical examinations, it was found that the foregoing person had digestive problems related to hemorrhoids in the past and that she does not suffer from any particular issues at the moment.

According to the medical documents of Armita Abbasi, the aforesaid was transferred to Imam Ali Hospital, which is affiliated with the University of Medical Sciences of Alborz Province, in Karaj on 17 October 2022 and was admitted to the emergency department at 21:13. The attending physician, in the consultation sheet, has mentioned hematochezia, which had started three days prior to admittance and repeated for five times. Therefore, the patient was admitted to the isolation room.

The hospital report shows that the patient complained about weakness, lethargy, and fatigue during the examination. Moreover, she had a runny nose, dry mouth, palpitations, and pain in the lower abdomen and back since a few days before her referral to the hospital.

During hospitalization at Imam Ali Hospital, the patient admitted to having a history of hemorrhoids before her arrest. Then, the doctor examined the patient from the relevant area, and no blood was observed.

In the consultation with the general surgeon during the examination, the foregoing person's abdomen was soft, and there were no symptoms of acute abdomen. The attending physician was suggested to notify the surgeon in case of active gastrointestinal bleeding, severe abdominal pain, blood pressure, and cardiac rhythm disturbances.

No abnormal results were reported during medical examinations and consultation with the gynecologist. Furthermore, the previous history of hemorrhoids was mentioned in the consultation with the forensic specialist stationed at the hospital. During the examination, the patient was alert and had normal vital signs. There were also no signs of injury, and she did not complain of any form of harassment.

Abdominal and pelvic ultrasound results show no abnormalities in the liver, gall bladder, bile ducts, pancreas, spleen, kidneys, and uterine appendages. The patient's ECG also did not show any particular abnormalities.

As per the nursing report, the patient and her companions did not want to stay in the hospital, and she refused to undergo an endoscopy. She was discharged from the hospital at her will and in good general condition.

During the visits and examinations by internal medicine specialists, gastroenterology subspecialists, surgeons, gynecologists, and forensic medicine specialists working in the hospital, the patient did not express any complaints other than the aforementioned issues. This fact has been recorded in writing in her treatment files. Moreover, the aforesaid doctors reported no abnormal signs and effects during physical examinations.

An Organized Plot Orchestrated by Highest Levels of American Society

Such accusations cannot be attributed to a single institution or media outlet. There seems to be an organized network behind this propaganda campaign, which originates from the highest levels of State institutions in one or more countries.

Right after the publication of CNN's alleged report on the sexual abuse of detainees in Iran, American officials from the highest levels highlighted and addressed this issue in a coordinated manner.

Ned Price, the U.S. State Department's spokesperson, immediately reacted to the report and once again leveled such accusations against Iran without providing any evidence. Then, Robert Malley, the U.S. Special Envoy for Iran, tweeted about the report in question. He supported CNN's alleged report without providing any credible evidence and repeated the accusations against Iran.

These reactions are emblematic of an already-written scenario, of which the CNN report was a part.

Release of Armita Abbasi Divulges Lies Disseminated by Hostile Media

Owing to a pardon offered by the Supreme Leader, Armita Abbasi was released on 7 February 2023 with an altogether smiling and cheerful face, unshaved hair, and no signs of fracture on the head; and, contrary to what CNN had claimed, there were signs of torture on her face. Her appearance at the time of prison release – from the make-up on her head and face to the dyed hair and polished nails – differed greatly from what was described by the Western and anti-Revolution media outlets. The foregoing person’s favorable and happy condition on the day of her release revealed such a contradiction in the claims made by the opposing media that it prompted reactions from social media users. Armita Abbasi, who the hostile media had previously described as a prisoner in “deteriorating condition”, is now, as put by many users, “fresher than ever” and constantly active on social media after her release. She publishes videos on Instagram, thanks her followers, and asks them to stay in touch with her. Many social media users, especially Twitter users, have reacted to and spoken sarcastically about such a turn of event! Many people on Twitter have placed the pictures of Armita Abbasi when she was released from prison next to the CNN report and expressed surprise about such a dramatic difference. Many others have challenged the claims made by CNN by comparing her release image and the U.S.-owned media’s report, describing the outlet as a “liar”.

Mohammad Mehdi Karami & Seyyed Mohammad Hosseini: A Report on Death Penalties & Execution of Verdicts

Description of Criminal Acts

On Thursday, 3 November 2022, during the riots and insecurity on the Karaj-Qazvin freeway near the Behesht-e Sakineh cemetery, several rioters around the said burial ground and the city of Kamalshahr in Karaj Province, sparked unrest and threw stones, dumped wood and construction debris on the autobahn in question under the pretext of participating in the 40th Day after the death⁴ of one of the victims of the riots, and closed the expressway, impeded the passage of cars, destroyed public and private property and assaulted officers. Born on 9 February 1995, unarmed Seyyed Ruhollah Ajamian, who was helping to clear the blockage along with a number of people stuck in the traffic jam due to the blockade, was attacked and brutally martyred by the rioters merely because he was wearing a Basij uniform. Following this bitter and unfortunate incident, a judicial case was immediately filed in the Karaj Criminal and Special Crimes Prosecutor’s Office, with the relevant investigator issuing the necessary judicial orders to identify and arrest the defendants. Two days after the incident, a number of thugs, including Mohammad Mehdi Karami and Seyyed Mohammad Hosseini, who had played a role in martyring the foregoing Basij member with knives, machetes, brass knuckles, and stones, were identified and arrested. Nine days after such a crime, on 12 November 2022, a bill of indictment was issued for the abovenamed defendants on charges of “a) corruption on the Earth through committing numerous crimes against the security of the State, b) attacking individuals and committing crimes against physical integrity thereof, which caused a severe disturbance in public order and insecurity in the Country and led to the martyrdom of a Basij member, the guardian of the security, Seyyed Ruhollah Ajamian, and c) assembly and collusion with the purpose of committing crimes against the security of the State.”

Mohammad Mehdi Karami

“It was the night of 2 November [2022] when one of my friends texted me and said that tomorrow, 3 November [2022], is the 40th Day of the death of Hadis Najafi, and we are preparing to attend the memorial service. So I also planned to participate in the ceremony. On 3 November [2022], it was around 11:00 when I reached the highway traffic. I got out of the car, chanted slogans with the people at the scene, and pelted the officers with stones. Then, I went to the underpass and saw that a group of people had gathered there.”, said the defendant in his confessions about how he participated in the riots.

During the court hearings, the defendant explicitly explained and confessed to his role. “I saw the Basij member lying on the ground and two or three people standing over him, hitting

⁴ It is a traditional memorial service, family gathering, ceremony and ritual in memory of the departed on the 40th day after his or her death.

him on the head and face with stones and sticks. Everyone would throw one or two punches at him and run away. I put my hand on his right shoulder, turned him around, and hit him with a stone. After I hit [his head] with a rock, I punched him three times. Then, I saw the martyr lying on the ground; someone was jumping on his right side and rib. When the martyr became almost alone, and people went away, I went to him and gave him one kick on the middle of his legs and two on his knees. In the meantime, a person went to the martyr and stabbed his abdomen and flank three up to four times. After that person hit him with the knife and got up on his stomach, I grabbed his legs and dragged him towards the front of the dump lorry. At this moment, his shoes came off, with which I hit his face twice. Then, I hit his head and neck with my left foot. I also hit him two or three times with [one of his] shoes.”

Seyyed Mohammad Hosseini

The said defendant is the one who had stabbed the martyr. In the court sessions, Seyyed Mohammad Hosseini has openly confessed to his criminal actions when martyring Ajamian: “I was among the last persons who went to the top of martyr Ajamian’s head. They were insulting and kicking the martyr. I shoved my knife twice into the body of martyr Ajamian two times for the depth of two knuckles. For the third time, I thrust the knife through his body a little more.”

Regarding the defendant’s criminal actions committed on the day of the incident, he advised that the other defendants have also openly identified him as the one who stabbed the martyr. Moreover, the pictures and videos obtained from the incident’s day show that the aforementioned defendant was actively present when the Tehran-Karaj highway was blocked and during Ajamian’s martyrdom. Footage of him holding a stone in his hand has also been published.

Judicial Proceedings & Full Observance of Right to a Fair Trial

Regarding the judicial cases opened against the aforesaid defendants, the preliminary investigations were conducted by the on-duty judge; and, based upon preliminary judicial measures, they confessed to having committed the crimes attributed thereto. The judicial cases were sent to the competent court following the issuance of a writ of culpability and a bill of indictment by the Prosecutor’s Office. Because many accusations were attributed to the defendants, the judicial cases were sent to a specialized tribunal, the Karaj Province Revolution Court, where they were heard in several hearing sessions. On the strength of the evidence, documents, and express confessions made by the two defendants, they were sentenced to the death penalty on the charges of corruption on the Earth through committing crimes against the security of the State, attacking the security guards, and committing crimes against the physical integrity of people, which caused a severe disturbance in public order and insecurity in the Country, and led to the martyrdom of Seyyed Ruhollah Ajamian. The convicts filed for a trial de novo, after which the judicial cases were sent to the Supreme Court. However, following careful re-examination of the cases, the judgment was upheld and signed off on for execution. Therefore, all the principles of a fair trial, including jurisdictional issues, the presence of the defendants in the hearing sessions, the right of defense, the right to counsel, the right to consider the reasons and discover the truth as well as the right to appeal, have been carefully considered and respected.

In line with the emphasis of the Chief of the Judiciary that should a defendant make a claim, it shall be dealt with, he advised that following the allegations made by the defendant’s lawyer suggesting the torture of his client, the matter was referred to the Alborz Province General and Revolution Prosecutor. Then, a case was filed in one of the investigation branches of the Karaj Province Prosecutor’s Office, and the lawyer was invited to present evidence and explanations regarding his claims. However, nothing was delivered, unfortunately. Furthermore, the necessary examinations were conducted when the defendant was transferred to prison, and no signs of beating were observed. The foregoing convict was not harmed or beaten inside the prison either, nor did he himself make a claim in this regard.

Paragraphs 44 to 48:

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly rejects the accusations made in the aforesaid paragraphs as unfounded. As a matter of fact, many human rights and social affairs activists, especially in the field of women, as well as journalists, are active in the Country freely.

However, the commission of any abuse or misconduct under the pretext of social activists, lawyers, reporters, actors/actresses, athletes, or similar titles shall not negate judicial liability thereof. Bestowing the title of women human rights defender to those who have ignored the norms of society and committed illegal actions with their antisocial behavior, is an affront to genuine human rights advocates.

Paragraph 49:

Allegations suggesting that family members of BBC News Persian have been subjected to harassment are devoid of any truth. The free and unhindered movement of the employees of the said media outlet and their families within the Islamic Republic of Iran and their return without problems confirms the falseness of the unsubstantiated claims made. Therefore, drawing a general conclusion from the legal treatment of a few individuals and prosecution of those who disturb the public order and security of the Iranian people and instead suggesting that “family members of BBC News Persian have been subjected to harassment” is a hasty generalization and, therefore, untrue. The existential philosophy and history of BBC’s enmity with the Islamic Republic of Iran and its acts of sedition at critical junctures are not a mystery to anyone. Below are some of the media outlet’s acts of sedition:

- Launched in 2008, the BBC News Persian satellite channel attracted a number of radical opponents and critics of the Islamic Republic of Iran to mount a soft Coup d’état against the Islamic Republic of Iran with the financial support of the British government. Most of its employees have a history of working in the domestic media, and some of them have cases in the judicial system because of committing illegal activities. The said outlet has targeted the security of the Country with the media war and the designed use of related tools to influence the opinions, culture, politics, feelings, tendencies, behavior, and mindset of people from all walks of life. The activity history of hostile BBC News Persian for more than a decade proves that the outlet in question has a negative approach towards the Islamic Republic of Iran, insults the leaders and State officials, paints a black picture of the Establishment, and derides the governing religious principles. Moreover, BBC News Persian is hell-bent on disturbing the mental peace of society. In this regard, this network is after eroding people’s trust in officials and the Establishment by preparing various reports and inducing hopelessness, despair, sadness, depression, and destroying social capital.
- One year after BBC News Persian was launched and during the 2009 Sedition in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the media outlet immediately got engaged with the subsequent developments and set up a 24-hour studio to cover the news of the riots, and provide field instructions to the rioters to disrupt public order and security of the citizens. Furthermore, BBC News Persian followed this *modus operandi* during the December 2017, November 2019, and 2022 riots and terror. Some of the measures of the hostile BBC News Persian in these years are as follows:
 - Creating ethnic and religious differences between people from different walks of life;
 - Provoking people to resort to violence during the riots;
 - Inducing despair and disappointment about the Country’s future;
 - Playing a central media role in creating and igniting internal riots, thereby striking fear into the hearts of people;
 - Laying the groundwork for depriving the public of trust in the Establishment and State officials;
 - Inducing the ineffectiveness of religion as well as weakening and destroying religious beliefs; and
 - Fomenting domestic economic crises to disrupt public order and the psychological security of citizens.

With regards to the violence-spreading TV network known as Iran International, be advised that the unprofessional approach, use of fake news, inversion, and violation of neutrality in the media are the dominant *modus operandi* of Iran International television channel. During

the recent riots, this satellite network has added a new procedure to its list of illegal activities; direct and indirect teaching of violence, disorder, and criminal actions is one of the new approaches that have nothing to do with the duties of the media and is in conflict with the international media covenants, the internal rules of media regulation in the UK (Ofcom) and even the principles of professional ethics declared by Iran International itself.

In its latest issue on October 27, the Economist weekly has described a fact that, if the media or Iranian authorities had brought it up, it would have been considered as lodging an accusation against someone else. “The Arab countries of the Persian Gulf certainly want regime change in Iran. The Saudis have established news channels that cover the news of protests in Iran with flair; even small demonstrations in remote cities are given an emotional cover.”, said the Economist. From this point of view, inciting, encouraging criminal acts, and promoting violence top the *modus operandi* of the said network.

Dominant Modus Operandi: Promotion of Violence

A review of the performance of the Iran International satellite network during the recent riots shows that this media, in addition to entirely using the capabilities of the television network, has fully exploited all platforms to publish flawed content. This procedure has even been against the protocols of those platforms, including Instagram, Twitter, and Telegram. During this period, Iran International has also provided direct and indirect courses to train various skills in anti-government actions. Spreading fake news, not being obliged to correct untrue phony content, and blatant violations of media neutrality have been other parts of Iran International’s procedure during the recent riots. The satellite network has even acted against its declared professional ethics protocol which is announced on its website. This so-called media outlet has committed significant violations in the following areas and has distanced itself from media duties thereof:

- Teaching violent and dangerous behavior, destruction, and violence;
- Promoting verbal and physical violence;
- Showing and teaching, directly and indirectly, dangerous behavior or portraying perilous behavior that is somehow harmful to a person and can be easily imitated by under-18s and other age groups;
- Broadcast vulgar and offensive content;
- Inciting crime and disorder, content that encourages or incites the commission of a crime or leads to disorder;
- Material that promotes or encourages participation in terrorism or other forms of criminal or disorderly activity;
- Hate speech that encourages the possibility of criminal activity or leads to disruption in the lives of citizens;
- Spreading hatred, publishing materials and contents that directly and indirectly in the form of interviews, reports, and narratives contain words that encourage belligerence and hatred;
- Providing for the formation of criminal offenses resulting from the dissemination of material inciting hatred related to race, religion, or gender; and
- Publishing content and materials that contain insulting or humiliating behavior towards the people of the groups.

Time Classification of Content & Programs Broadcast by Iran International

In order to assess the performance of the said satellite network more precisely, we have checked its performance in 16-day intervals. The investigation of the performance of the Iran International satellite network in a period of 16 days, from 14 September to 30 September, shows a hasty, biased, untruthful activity, not using the facilities and basic skills of verification as the essential condition of professional media activity and also against its declared professional policy. During the said period, the central part of the biased activities of Iran International was promoting violence, anarchism, justification of insecurity, indirect training of subversive and terrorist activities, and destruction of public and private property.

The interviews conducted by the aforesaid television channel during the period in question with members of the opposition parties and groups hostile to the Islamic Republic of Iran and some so-called human rights and women's organizations active in the field of Iran have been categorized and analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively. Examining the interviews broadcast by the satellite network shows that Iran International has only had seven interviews with officials of five different organizations that claim to be supporting human rights and women's rights activities inside and outside the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At least 63 interviews with the general secretary and senior officials of foreign-based Iranian opposition groups and separatist groups with a history of terrorist activities were conducted and published by Iran International during the said period. These people do not include organizations and parties that have representation in Iran and are considered to be organizations consisting of individuals hostile to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Based on this, the interviews were conducted with emotional and provocative language to promote illegal street gatherings, indirect training in confronting the police, and the use of civil disobedience at the city level against the police forces, disrupting the public affairs of cities and presenting provocative and political statements to attend gatherings.

Fabricated Headlines Used to Promote Violence, Disorder & Crime

During the same period and in various publishing formats, including satellite TV, website, Farsi and English pages on social networks including Twitter and Instagram and Telegram, Iran International repeatedly mentioned the following concepts and interpretations as "the news line", "questions to be asked from the interviewees", "text of reports" and "dominant language of news":

- The Islamic Republic of Iran is a serial killer;
- State-commissioned murder;
- Demonstrations, protests, nationwide rallies;
- Publicizing and vigorously promoting nationwide strikes;
- Mass arrests;
- Street battle between protestors and police;
- Advertising and promoting underground activities and clandestine networks;
- Calling for a boycott of Iranian sports teams;
- Publishing violent behavior by children as news content; and
- Making fake statistics about the number of casualties and arrests in the form of analysis and projecting them as news.

The important thing that can be seen in the rhetoric review of Iran International regarding the publication of the news of protests and riots in the Country is that the said satellite channel has provided textual and video narratives of the encounter of the police forces everywhere, instead of referring to them as police or police forces, it has used titles such as "security", "repression" or "military" forces. Removing the name of the police from the rhetoric and language of the said propaganda outlet shows its *modus operandi* when it describes as repression the action of the police against violence and destruction of private and public property. This is while maintaining order and preventing disorder and harming citizens is the primary duty of the police everywhere in the world.

Paragraph 50:

The Islamic Republic of Iran's interaction with all media, whether print or online, is based on the law. As per the law, the Supreme Council of Cyberspace is recognized as the top and independent institution in cyberspace in the Country, the main task of which is policy making, macro management, planning, making necessary and timely decisions, and monitoring cyberspace. The enactments of the said Council are mandatory for all related bodies according to the law. In addition, according to Article 22 of the Law on Computer Crimes, the Judiciary has been tasked to form a committee to determine instances of criminal content. Chaired by the Attorney-General, the said committee has been formed with the membership

of the representatives of the relevant institutions. Based on the laws and regulations, the committee acts to determine examples of websites that intend to endanger society's security and public order, support terrorist groups, promote crimes against public morals, and promote false content. According to the country's existing laws, the relevant judicial centers deal with the crimes committed by the owners of such websites and computer systems. This approach does not violate the freedom of speech and privacy of the people but instead ensures citizens' rights and privacy on the Internet more than ever. Moreover, this is a serious demand made by the people who want the Government to defend and support the dignity, rights, and privacy of individuals against those who spread personal and private information of individuals without permission and fear. Therefore, the official policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to promote people's access to information and provide legal freedom for their paper and online media activities and, accordingly, to protect and enhance the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Messaging apps and social networks are known as a practical reference for daily interactions in various cultural, economic, and political fields, etc. They significantly contribute to forming different relationships in society. On this basis, one cannot be indifferent to the dimensions, effects, and damages thereof. It is no secret that terrorist attacks on the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the Imam Khomeini Mausoleum as well as many other terrorist attacks were carried out through social networks such as Telegram, which refused to cooperate with the police in any way. Therefore, organizing from the stage of formation to monitoring the process of activities and creating a guarantee of executions all over the world needs a legal mechanism, which, of course, should not be without supportive views towards the internal capacities in the field of information exchange. The legal mechanism to support social messengers as well as information networks is to build trust and protect citizenship rights, privacy, public culture and community security. Therefore, the intelligent restriction of some social networks has been enforced for reasons such as the publication of a large amount of information containing criminal examples, including cases related to the abuse of children, exploitation thereof by terrorist groups to spread terrorism, propagate extremism and violence, violation of privacy and disrespect for the rules. As mentioned before, despite users' free use of social networks, it is not far from imagination to expect the existence of some violations and to deal with them legally, similar to other societies. According to the official policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the public demand and the prevention of propagation of terrorist and extremist activities against the public morals of the society in cyberspace, filtering of such websites is done, and their owners and managers face prosecution according to the laws of the Country. The Islamic Republic of Iran takes pride in putting up a serious fight against the culture of promiscuity and debauchery, the spread of prostitution, and the abuse of children in order to protect their rights as much as possible. In addition, the Internet network and infrastructure continue to work despite some temporary limitations. However, some accesses were temporarily limited to deprive the commanders and main perpetrators of the riots of destructive and terrorist use of ICT and the Internet. In this connection, international human rights documents and treaties, including Article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, have authorized the imposition of cross-sectional restrictions during extraordinary circumstances and in times when national security and public order, public morals, and the rights and freedoms of others are threatened and violated.

Role of WhatsApp & Instagram Platforms in Incitement to Violence, Destruction & Dissemination of Criminal Contents During Recent Riots

The *modus operandi* of handling and failure to take the necessary measures by Meta Platforms, Inc., regarding Instagram and WhatsApp platforms over the past years have caused the said social media apps to become a safe haven for criminals, criminal groups, terrorist groups and those sowing the seeds of chaos and riots. This deliberate negligence and lack of action have weakened security, public order and mental peace, and violated users' rights.

During the recent riots and unrest, Instagram played a serious role in inciting and encouraging violence and chaos in the Islamic Republic of Iran by teaching how to make smoke bombs and Molotov cocktails, advertising for the sale of various types of firearms, and broadcasting hundreds of violent videos following the death of Mahsa Amini. In addition, with the organized dissemination of false news and promotion of discriminatory and hateful behavior, Instagram not only lacks the minimum preconditions of a free and independent social media

platform, but has provided all its facilities and capacity to terrorist, separatist and violent groups to incite chaos and disorder in the Country. Instagram has also turned into a hotbed for creating social, ethnic, and religious divisions in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Terrorist and separatist groups – by publishing specific content encouraging subversion, videos of secessionist groups who launched the deadly Ahvaz terrorist attack back in September 2018 – use Instagram to incite ethnic sentiments and separatism, and provoke enmity and conflict among Iranian ethnic groups.

Some other illegal actions taken by Instagram against the Islamic Republic of Iran are as follows:

- Promoting inappropriate sexual behavior for children and teenagers (11,519,133 vulgar posts and promoting pornography);
- Granting the users access to live sex videos and offering sexual services and prostitution – this is while such content and related hashtags cannot be published in English;
- Organized crimes, including the transfer and trade of firearms and drugs (3,314,189 Instagram posts observed in this regard have hitherto not been deleted due to Meta's non-cooperation); and
- Organized publication of false news, promoting hatred, inciting to violence and social unrest (repeatedly publishing a video of the murder of a seminary student in Hamedan by mobs in 2019 and encouraging other thugs to take a similar action, publishing invitations to riot and destruction of property in response to fuel price hikes, fueling insecurity, teaching how to make smoke bombs and Molotov cocktails, and broadcasting hundreds of violent videos following the death of Mahsa Amini).

It is self-evident that the actions taken by the aforesaid platform, in addition to violating Iran's national sovereignty, have also violated the users' rights by practicing double standards and laying the groundwork for the terrorist group's propaganda campaign and operations. Meta has also failed to respond to the Iranian authorities' legal requests in a responsible and professional manner; several official correspondences have been sent thereto from the Police for the Sphere of the Production and Exchange of Information (FATA), the Iranian Audiovisual Media Regulatory Authority (SATRA) and the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA). The correspondences demand a response from and adoption of preventive measures by Meta against the spread of illegal contents which run contrary to the declared policies thereof, the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including enactment No. 96/101875 adopted on 2 August 2017, as well as international law.

Despite the actions taken by Meta Company and Instagram platform to incite, encourage and direct violence and spread hatred, unfortunately, we must recall the bitter fact that Instagram – after the American terrorist regime assassinated Martyr Soleimani who was the flag-bearer of the fight against terrorism – committed virtual assassination by removing dozens of millions of posts related to this great hero under the pretext of its so-called policies against violence.

It has always been the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to refrain from hindering the activities of foreign platform companies alongside domestic ones. However, the legal necessities for the sustainable operation of foreign platforms are based on respect for laws, regulations, users' rights, and responsible cooperation thereof.

Paragraphs 51 & 52:

The observance of all legal formalities related to forensic examinations, delivery of bodies to the families of the deceased, and holding of many mourning ceremonies for the victims of the recent riots in different cities without any restrictions debunk the already contradictory claims made in the paragraphs in question. In addition, allegations suggesting the exertion of pressure on the families of the deceased was one of the fake keywords of anti-Iran media outlets to arouse public sentiments and create anxiety in the minds of the people, through which they sought to foment the riots by falsifying and distorting the facts and spreading falsehoods, and in some cases, by luring or deceiving the families of the deceased.

Paragraphs 53 to 56:

- According to the laws and regulations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, making arrests without the basis of law and order of the relevant judicial authority is prohibited, and the violator shall be punished. On the strength of Article 583 of the Islamic Penal Code: “If any state official and civil servant or armed forces or the like, without any order from competent authorities [and] in cases other than those in which the law permits arrest or detention of people, arrests or detains an individual and forcibly conceals him in a place, he shall be sentenced to one year to three years’ imprisonment or a fine of six to eighteen million Rials.” Therefore, allegations about widespread arbitrary arrests are groundless, given the existence of severe legal punishments, both under the law and in practice.
- In relation to the issue of conducting trials and immediate execution of punishment, be advised that pursuant to the Code of Criminal Procedure, enacted in 2013, pronouncing punishment or issuing a verdict for all crimes requires the exhaustion of all formalities and legal processes. However, in cases where the crime has hurt public sentiments, on the strength of the Note to Article 449 of the aforesaid Code, crimes that cause injury to public morals shall be examined, out of turn, at the request of the public prosecutor and with the agreement of the provincial court of retrials, and as per Article 466 of the aforementioned Code, at the request of the President of the Supreme Court during *de novo* trial. However, the out-of-turn handling of the case does not prove the non-observance of procedural standards or disregard of the rights of the accused.
- Concerning the criminal titles such as “*moharebeh*” and “*efsad-e fil-arz*” and the like, it is noted that the titles are legal and have specific limits and components. It is necessary to pay full attention when referring to such legal terms and expressions. Simply using the phrase “*efsad-e fil-arz*” without taking into account the legal instances thereof, which is deemed as the most serious crimes by the legislator, shows a lack of knowledge about the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Concerning the claim about the issuance of 1,000 indictments, while debunking such a figure, the Islamic Republic of Iran touches upon the amnesty granted by the Supreme Leader to a massive number of offenders, except those who had committed murder or caused serious damage to the public and private property, as a result of which they were released, and their cases were closed.
- Incorrect perceptions of the laws and judicial bodies of the Islamic Republic of Iran are reflected in the report, which must be corrected. For example, the word “revolution” in the “Revolution Court” is the special name of a dedicated and specialized tribunal. It does not correspond to the fabricated and fake concept of “revolutionary courts”, which has been repeated in the report. The Revolution Court has a president and two advisors, and is formed according to the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure; the rulings issued therein can be appealed in the provincial courts and the Supreme Court. Albeit Javid Rehman has constantly been made aware of this fact, it seems that repeating such lies is emblematic of his politically-motivated approach and decision to ignore the opinions of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Contrary to what is mentioned in the report regarding the note to Article 48 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, be advised that such restrictions can only be enforced during the preliminary stage of investigations and are specific to crimes against internal and external security and organized crimes. After the initial investigations, the accused can choose an appointed lawyer to deal with the crime(s) attributed thereto. Therefore, it does not apply to all the arrested or defendants. In addition, insinuating that in Revolutionary Court, the defendants do not have access to a lawyer or lawyers is a contradictory and false claim.
- Allegations suggesting that the courts use “the confessions of protesters extracted under torture and ill-treatment as the basis for convictions” are devoid of any truth. On the strength of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Holy Sharia of Islam, any confession obtained under torture is illegal and unlawful and therefore lacks validity. As stipulated by Article 38 of the Constitution: “All forms of torture

for the purpose of extracting confession or acquiring information are forbidden. The compulsion of individuals to testify, confess, or take an oath is not permissible; and any testimony, confession, or oath obtained under duress is devoid of value and credence. Violation of this article is liable to punishment in accordance with the law.” As per Article 578 of the Islamic Penal Code, enacted in 2013: “Any civil servant or judicial or non-judicial agent who corporally mistreats and abuses an accused person in order to force him to confess, in addition to qisas and *diya*, shall be sentenced to six months to three years’ imprisonment; and if it is done under someone’s order, only the person who has issued the order shall be sentenced to the aforementioned imprisonment; and if the accused person dies as a result of the abuses, the principal to the murder shall be sentenced to the punishment provided for a murderer, and the person who has issued the order shall be sentenced to the punishment provided for the person who has ordered a murder.”

Paragraphs 57 to 62:

The Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran is a completely independent body. No institution or authority outside the Judiciary interferes in the process of issuing verdicts. The calls made by the parliamentarians shall not be considered a violation of the constitutional principle of the separation of powers. As stated earlier, the out-of-turn handling of criminal cases that hurt public sentiments is based on the Code of Criminal Procedure.

With regards to the allegations raised in Paragraph 59, be advised that:

- As it was said, accusations faced by the said individuals concerning the social and public consequences of their criminal actions (creating terror among the people and committing murder) were handled by the court out of turn and on the strength of Articles 449 and 466 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, as their crimes had hurt public feelings;
- The out-of-turn handling of the cases does not point to non-observance of procedural standards or disregard of the rights of the defendant;
- The individuals in question were found guilty after the exhaustion of all legal formalities and hearing their defenses and that of their lawyers. The judgments pronounced thereagainst were also reviewed by the Supreme Court; and
- With the existence of corroborating evidence, there is no point in relying on the confessions of the accused to issue verdicts. In addition, contrary to the allegations, their admissions before the investigating authority, the video of which is available on the Internet and social media, were entirely made in line with their free will and in the absence of coercion or reluctance.

On 22 September 2022, Mohammad Ghobadloo ran over six on-duty police officers with his car, killing one and injuring five others. Contrary to the claims, the foregoing person’s mental disability has not been confirmed. He was engaged in hairdressing, and according to the convict’s statements, he had stopped taking pills prescribed by doctors 4 to 5 weeks before the committed crimes. If not taking the drugs caused a loss of discernment, perhaps the defendant would have behaved dangerously during the days when he had stopped taking the medications. But he also confirmed that he did not engage in risky behavior similar to the behavior reflected in the case. On the other hand, the defendant’s statements and conduct during the investigation stages confirm that he, while being able to discriminate, committed the crimes with full knowledge and awareness and was fully cognizant that his acts were against the law. Anyhow, the Supreme Court nullified and stayed the judgment thereagainst. Regarding the names listed in paragraphs 61 and 62, none of the cases have resulted in a definitive verdict and are open for further investigation. Therefore, there is no point in commenting on this matter.

Paragraphs 63 to 66:

While rejecting the false and unrealistic statistics in the said paragraphs, the Islamic Republic of Iran states that the report has ignored Iran’s geopolitical position as a transit passage for a significant part of the world’s narcotics to the West, especially to Europe. Iran’s location in the neighborhood of the largest producer of traditional narcotics in the world has made plans

to deal with drug trafficking to be of strategic importance for the Government. According to statistics released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, more than 90% of opium, 70% of morphine, and over 20% of heroin discoveries globally belong to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The leading partner of the UNODC policy and programs in West Asia, the Islamic Republic of Iran has often been called the flag bearer of the international fight against narcotics by the executive directors of the aforesaid UN office. The discovery and seizure of thousands of tons of narcotics and psychoactive substances over the past years have marked a new achievement and record for the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is unprecedented in the history of Iran's fight against drug trafficking. But the unfortunate thing is that since the United States and its allies in NATO established a direct military presence in Afghanistan, the production of narcotics therein has increased surprisingly, from about 200 tons in 2001 to more than 9,000 in 2021. In other words, drug production in Afghanistan increased more than 45 times before the eyes of thousands of American and Western soldiers. In other words, the Islamic Republic of Iran has faced two problems in the fight against narcotics, the root causes of which are the United States and its western allies (the sponsors and co-sponsors of the Resolution). The first problem is the incredible increase in the production of narcotics in the territory where the armed forces of the United States and other NATO members were present until last year. Another problem is that these countries prevent Iran from accessing military and civilian anti-narcotics equipment by applying and implementing cruel and illegal sanctions. Due to the lack of access to these facilities, the Iranian nation has suffered many irreparable injuries, damages, and spiritual and material costs. This is while the report has made no reference to this violation of the rights of the Iranian people, which unfortunately includes a wide range of their rights. The report has also failed to provide any logical and believable justification for turning a blind eye to such a gross and widespread violation of the rights of the Iranian people. Besides, at least 4,000 people in Iran die from drug abuse annually. Iran's policy to deal with narcotics is a definite one that is based on severe threats caused by this phenomenon. Nearly 4,000 law enforcement forces have hitherto been martyred, and 12,000 others have also sustained injuries. Therefore, Iran's criminal policy regards drug threats as a serious crime. Nevertheless, it has increased the threshold for issuing the death penalty for drug-related offenses.

Owing to the amendment of the law and the application of Article 45 of the Anti-Narcotics Law, enacted in 2017, comparing the number of executions carried out in the 2013-2018 and 2018-2022 periods proves that the number has decreased by about 83%. It is evident that the part of the issued sentences that finally led to the execution of the death sentence, definitely includes the convicts who tried to sell large amounts of narcotics combined with organized crimes. Furthermore, over the last five years, only 10% of the death penalties issued have resulted in the execution of the sentence. The remaining 90% have been converted to imprisonment following the amendment of Article 45 of the aforementioned Law. Many of these people have enjoyed Islamic leniency and have been subject to amnesty, work release, or release using electronic tagging on various holidays and occasions.

Regarding the execution of punishment for persons under 18 years of age, it is necessary to mention a few points:

- **First**, the Convention on the Rights of the Child does not recognize the age of 18 as a definitive and mandatory age and allows domestic law to set another age as the age of maturity. On the strength of Article 1 of the said Convention: "For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier." Therefore, the age of 18 is not an absolute requirement under the abovenamed Convention.
- **Second**, the legal system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, albeit based upon religious teachings, sets the age of less than 18 years as the age of criminal responsibility; however, criminal policy thereof, especially in the legislative amendments of 2013, has moved towards the gradual acceptance of responsibility and a significant reduction in the death penalty and retribution-in-kind for adult under-18 offenders. The most significant amendment has been made to Article 91 of the abovementioned Law, which restricts the imposition of fines and retribution-in-kind on this age group

under four difficult conditions: “understanding the nature of the crime”, “understanding the religious sanctity of action”, “realization of growth” and “realization of the perfection of reason”. The design of these constraints leaves the final decision to the various layers of judicial decision-making in such cases. It should be noted that the decision on cases related to this issue is within the jurisdiction of specialized judicial authorities and has a multiplicity of judges (3 judges), and is usually associated with a fair degree of access of the accused to defense facilities compared to other cases. The said Article obliges the judge to meet some of the above conditions with the help of forensic medicine or other means. Therefore, the judges of the case, in principle, cannot decide without consulting “forensic medicine or other means”. Field evidence indicates that given the binding 2013 Law, in the vast majority of relevant cases, judges immediately and without dispute used the possibility of the Article in question, and thus, several cases led to the issuance of sentences other than execution or retribution-in-kind.

- **Third**, the duty of the Government in cases leading to the issuance of a retribution-in-kind sentence is only to investigate and establish the intentionality of the murder, and the execution of the sentence is possible only at the request of the victim’s next-of-kin. That is because according to the existing procedure, even after the final verdicts of the courts and their approval in the Supreme Court, extensive efforts are made by the Reconciliation Commission to seek pardon from the family of the victim and to convert retribution-in-kind to blood money. In recent years, a significant number of people have thus been spared retribution-in-kind. Therefore, the principled policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the retribution-in-kind is to encourage compromise even by providing financial assistance to the offender to pay blood money – and this is the prevailing trend and the primary way of dealing with this group of offenders.
- It should be noted that Yousef Mirzavand was 20 when he committed the crime, and claims suggesting that he was 16 when arrested are untrue.

With regards to the individuals referred to in Paragraph 66, be advised that the charge of committing corruption through widely spreading prostitution, be advised that they have not had human rights activities in any way, and therefore, considering them as LGBT rights activists and the like is just an attempt to whitewash and cover up their crimes and find a leeway for them to dodge legal punishment. Zahra Seddiqi has been sentenced to the death penalty for establishing organized networks of homosexuality, widely spreading homosexuality and promoting homosexual life on social media, forming corruption and prostitution groups, recruiting members to open a corruption and prostitution center, taking Iranian girls to the city of Erbil in Iraq for prostitution, seducing impecunious Iranian girls on a large scale and forcing them into prostitution, and launching a propaganda campaign against Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Elham Choubdar has also been sentenced to the death penalty for entering a homosexual life with Zahra Seddiqi and making it public through broadcasting their pictures and videos on social media, being actively and extensively engaged in the organized network of corruption and prostitution of Iranian girls and women in Iraq and Iran, and widely spreading homosexuality. The death penalty verdicts have been pronounced after the exhaustion of all legal formalities and hearing the defenses presented by the aforesaid. The judgments are not final and are currently subject to de novo trial in the Supreme Court.

Paragraphs 67 to 69:

With regards to the allegations suggesting that the majority of those executed are of minority communities, be advised that there is no difference between minority and non-minority anywhere in the law. Therefore, the criminals convicted of drug-related offenses, both Iranian and non-Iranian, and of any ethnicity or religion, are equal before the law. In addition, the Islamic Republic of Iran comprises different ethnicities.

Paragraph 68 of the report has made many baseless and unjustified claims and accusations against the Islamic Republic regarding the Baha’is. The allegations presented in the report are politically motivated and biased, and have been repeated by some anti-Iranian media outlets without any change. In this connection, it is necessary to mention a few points:

- In spite of the fact that Baha'ism is not recognized as a religious minority under the Constitution, the citizenship rights of the followers of this sect are respected. The observance of the citizenship rights of individuals is indeed deferred to the fulfillment of the legal duties and obligations of each person in society. The validity of any right is conditional upon the fulfillment of reciprocal duty, and this legal principle, i.e., placing the duty against the right, is recognized as the main principle in legal systems;
- Despite having a very small population, Baha'is in Iran do not face any restrictions for performing important jobs such as working as a doctor, establishing a pharmacy, working in medical centers, and teaching in universities;
- The laws and regulations and the practical procedure of the institutions and executive bodies of the Country are emblematic of non-discrimination against and non-discriminatory treatment of all citizens, including the followers of the Baha'i sect. Undoubtedly, if a legal action is implemented in some cases, it is under three circumstances:
 - Several Baha'is have committed illegal actions such as unauthorized construction and confiscation of national lands and the like in some regions. Analogous to sections of society who commit property violations, the Baha'is are dealt with legally without discrimination. A case in point is the legal action taken based upon the judicial order in the village of Roshankoh in Mazandaran Province, which was explained in response to the communication dated 12 August 2022 of the Special Procedures Mandate-Holders;
 - Some Baha'is, like other members of society, have private plaintiffs and face prosecution due to personal disputes. Unfortunately, such cases have been deemed as politically-charged by hostile media outlets. In addition, some Baha'is – in order to flout the law, which is equal for all citizens – use the propaganda capacity of biased media to play the innocent on a large scale; and
 - A small group of Baha'is act against the Country's interests by engaging in or becoming a member of illegal groups without obtaining permission from the relevant authorities. They pursue their agendas in various ways by abusing other Baha'i citizens. This is while Article 19 of the Constitution states that all people of Iran, whatever the ethnic group or tribe to which they belong, enjoy equal rights; color, race, language, and the like do not bestow any privilege. Article 20 of the Constitution also stipulates that all citizens of the Country, both men and women, equally enjoy the protection of the law and enjoy all human, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, in conformity with Islamic criteria.
- While asserting that any arrest and search of houses, places, and objects are conducted only by order of the judicial authority and in compliance with the provisions of the Fifth Chapter of the Code of Criminal Procedure, enacted in 2013, and that those violating the said provisions face punishment, be advised that the investigations carried out into the statistics of judicial orders for arrest or search and inspection of houses, places, and objects show that a tiny percentage of such orders were issued for the Baha'i criminals; and
- The Islamic Republic of Iran has already provided detailed explanations about the allegations suggesting the desecration of Baha'i's graveyards. Be advised that cemeteries' destruction is contingent upon land-use change and urban development programs. The cemeteries of the Country, including those of Muslims, Christians, Jews, and those belonging to all groups and ethnic groups, are subject to regulations. Generally, these places face a land-use conversion after several years with the expansion of the urban fabric and according to the regulations. The issue of placing cemeteries in the urban fabric is inevitable, considering the increase in population and urban development programs in most of the Country's big cities. According to Note 6 of Article 96 of the Law of Municipalities, public cemeteries are considered public property owned by the municipality. On the strength of Article 45 of the Financial Regulations of Municipalities, cemeteries are regarded as public property of the Municipality. In addition, according to Article 9 of the Bylaw on Health Regulations

of Sanctuaries, the deceased's grave is chosen for thirty years. In Tehran, regional cemeteries are entirely closed, and even a large cemetery called Mesgarabad has been turned into a park and cultural building, despite having hundreds of thousands of graves. Currently, 33 local cemeteries of Tehran, which have already been closed, have been made ready for land-use conversion. This issue is not specific to Tehran and applies to other cities as well. In the holy city of Qom, 23 cemeteries have been closed. Even the historical cemetery of Isfahan, Takht-e Foulad, has been completely shut down and undergone land-use conversion. In Shiraz, two Muslim cemeteries have been subjected to land-use conversion, one has become a park called "Bagh-e Melli", which is located at the Hafezieh intersection, and the second one has become a city bus terminal following the development of Ahmadi Nou street.

Paragraph 70:

The politicization in the report has progressed to the point where even the most obvious and fundamental legal and judicial principles, such as "the principle of equality of individuals before the law" and "the principle of non-discrimination" have been violated and one of the sections of the draft report has been allocated to "foreign and dual nationals". In other words, the Javaid Rehman's move to raise this issue means that having the citizenship of a Western country makes that person enjoy more rights than others. These countries use all capacities, including that of the so-called special rapporteur, to advance their political goals and interests and apply unfair discrimination against citizens. In addition, the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran do not recognize dual citizenship. Having the citizenship of another country does not lead to more privileges, nor is it a reason to violate the right of citizenship.

Paragraph 71:

Holding sham trials without access to the evidence of the crime, and relying on fabricated testimonies and fake news to issue verdicts, are examples of the violation of fair proceedings and run counter to the requirements of due process.

Arbitrary arrest and conviction without complying with the minimum requirements of a fair trial in the case of Hamid Nouri are actions against international customs and regulations. The following points are presented for further clarification:

- Merely resting on false statements and hallucinatory memories of several Monafeqeen terrorists, the arrest warrant against the abovenamed has been issued by the Swedish prosecutor in the absence of a thorough and exhaustive investigation. Therefore, the Swedish authorities have violated the principle of presumption of innocence and the Iranian national's right to freedom of movement. It took 21 months from the arrest thereof to the completion of the so-called investigation, which led to the presentation of an indictment thereagainst on 27 July 2021. The Iranian citizen has been languishing in a solitary cell during the said period, which is emblematic of the arbitrary arrest without legitimate and documented reasons;
- On the strength of Article 36 of the 1963 Vienna Convention, the competent authorities of the receiving State shall, without delay, inform the consular post of the sending State if, within its consular district, a national of that State is arrested or committed to prison or to custody pending trial or is detained in any other manner. Any communication addressed to the consular post by the person arrested, in prison, custody or detention shall be forwarded by the said authorities without delay. Consular officers shall have the right to visit a national of the sending State who is in prison, custody or detention, to converse and correspond with him and to arrange for his legal representation. However, facts on the ground are indicative of the violation of the rights enumerated hereinabove by the Swedish judicial authorities;
- Regretfully, the Swedish Government has neither fulfilled its responsibility under the Vienna Convention to inform the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Stockholm about the arrest, nor has it notified the forgoing person's family. During the first 2-year detention period and despite his family having traveled to Sweden twice, the Swedish authorities did not allow them to meet the unlawfully arrested Iranian national;

- The right to liberty and security of a person is one of the fundamental human rights guaranteed under Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 9 (1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Obligated to respect the said right, the Swedish authorities have illegally arrested the foregoing person and grossly violated the right thereof to liberty and security in the absence of any reason, legal basis, or without prior summons whatsoever. Is the 32-month unlawful detention in solitary confinement sensible, necessary, and in compliance with the aforesaid obligations?
- In addition, the Kingdom of Sweden is a signatory to the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the European Convention on Human Rights, whereby respectively Articles 2, 7 and 3 of the aforesaid international and regional legal instruments require Sweden to refrain from subjecting any person to torture, cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment. Incarcerating the aforementioned in a solitary cell for a period of more than 32 months even after the restrictions introduced thereon were lifted by the court, refusal to grant him access to an ophthalmologist ever since his arrest, severe assault by police officers, and undressing, especially before female officers have altogether subjected him to physical and psychological torture and humiliation, in violation of the rights set forth in the foregoing instruments;
- The Swedish judiciary's proceedings against the foregoing person can under no circumstances whatsoever be described as fair. A fair trial shall, in fact, be in accordance with the law; the detention of the accused shall not be arbitrary; the court shall be competent, independent, and impartial; the proceedings shall be conducted within a reasonable time; and the principle of presumption of innocence shall be assumed by the court; and
- The arrest and unlawful holding of the individual in question for 32 months based upon merely false and contradictory complaints and statements churned out by Monafeqeen terrorists who have assassinated 17,000 innocent civilians, do not show independence or impartiality and are not in line with the principle of presumption of innocence. The answer to this question is negative. It is clear that the Swedish judicial authorities violate Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

In relation to Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 (PS752), taking into account that the investigations of the charges against the relevant persons are underway in the courts of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and as per the customary international law rule of exhaustion of local remedies, filing a complaint in an international court requires the exhaustion of local remedies. Therefore, filing such a complaint has no legal basis.

Paragraph 74:

Concerning the 15 October 2022 fire incident in Evin Prison, be advised that the fire had broken out in Ward No. 7 of the said penitentiary – where those convicted of violent crimes, mostly different types of thefts, are held. Therefore, alleging that foreign and dual-citizen prisoners are kept there is entirely intentional and to advance political purposes. Secondly, the documented report of the incident proves that certain prisoners convicted of violent crimes deliberately and with a pre-thought plan set fire to the sewing workshop, which is located on the second floor, clashed with correctional officers, and sought to bust out of the prison. Subsequently, the raging fire engulfed and swept through the ward in question.

As the officers were trying to extinguish the fire and transfer the prisoners to a safe place (the gym located in the prison), some of the inmates tried to escape from the prison by attacking the correctional officers and starting riots, during which they inflicted injuries upon the personnel and destroyed the property of the State Prisons Organization. In the meantime, four of the rioting prisoners died due to smoke inhalation caused by the fire and fire-related injuries. 61 prisoners have also sustained injuries, but many of them received outpatient treatment. Only 10 of the wounded inmates were hospitalized, 4 of whom died at the hospital despite extensive medical efforts.

Although paragraph 74 of the report makes a brief reference to the 26 October 2022 terrorist attack at Shah Cheragh holy shrine in Shiraz, during which the terrorists killed at least 15 pilgrims and worshipers and injured more than 40 people, it is evident that Javaid Rehman – compared to other parts of the report, in which the dimensions and effects of the issues were addressed in a biased and intentional manner and sometimes explained in detail – simply turns a blind eye to such a heinous crime. It is very unfortunate that until the report in question was compiled, not only did the media and countries that claim to support human rights and actually support terrorism and terrorist groups remain tightlipped, the international human rights mechanisms – including the rapporteurs who issue statements for trivial and unreal matters – chose not to react to the terrorist attack.

Paragraph 75:

As stressed by Javaid Rehman, he has reached conclusions “on the basis of the large amount of information and testimonies received and after having reviewed all available evidence” – a claim that does not match the components of an impartial and independent report.

- Without providing any logic and correct reasoning, the foregoing person claims that the investigations into the death of Mahsa Amini are unreliable and NOT transparent. He simply ignores the most basic reporting components, i.e., independence, impartiality, and citation of reliable sources. That has been the case in the reports written in recent years about the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Javaid Rehman claims that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is inciting violence. This is while in his reports, he does not make the slightest reference to the tensions created by anti-Iranian news agencies and media, such as Iran International, all of which use the facilities of satellite television and social networks to paint a dark picture of the situation and magnify the events, and, on a 24/7 basis, broadcast programs to teach the rioters how to vandalize public and private property, beat and confront police officers, and set fire to city and traffic signs.
- In a brash and brazen move, and without presenting any evidence, he claims that the detainees have been sexually assaulted. Such a claim is merely made based on the unsubstantiated allegations of certain individuals provoking others to riot.

Paragraph 76:

The report’s reliance on fake information churned out by some sects and terrorist groups who have a dark history of killing thousands of innocent Iranian citizens and leave no stone unturned to continue their enmity with the Iranian nation and side with their adversaries, the prominent role of the information received from some organizations affiliated with the governments hostile to the Iranian nation, including the British regime, which has a sinister history of committing crimes against the Iranian people over the past few decades and accompanies and supports the enemies of the Iranian nation, especially the former Iraqi Ba’athist regime, the American terrorist regime, the Zionist occupation regime, all shows the dishonesty and lack of goodwill of Javaid Rehman, and leave no room for accepting his claim of “independence”. Therefore, since the draft report is entirely contrary to the principles, criteria, and requirements set out in Resolution 5/2 adopted by the Human Rights Council on 18 June 2007 and annex thereto, the Code of Conduct of Special Procedures Mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council, in particular, Article 6 on the “necessity of obtaining facts through objective and reliable information from reliable sources”, it is fair to say that the foregoing person has deviated from the framework of balanced reporting. As a result, neither he himself can claim “competence”, nor can his report have the minimum “legal validity”. Not only can the report provide an authentic assessment of the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, but the so-called recommendations offered by the said person can promote human rights.

Paragraph 77:

It is very unfortunate that not only did he show no will to address this issue in any of his previous reports, but in his latest report, the foregoing person rudely asked the international community and the sanctioning countries to press ahead with their sanctions, which have never been targeted, and the adverse consequences of which have violated the most fundamental rights of the Iranian nation.

C. Final Considerations:

- Assigning a mandate to the citizen of a country that is the main sponsor of the anti-Iran resolution to prepare a report on the situation of human rights in a country such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has always adhered to its obligations vis-à-vis its citizens and the international community, is categorically unjustified, unconstructive and politicized;
 - Regretfully, the prejudices and hasty judgments contained in the report to undermine the legal and practical progress made in the Country severely diminish the report's credibility. It is necessary to note that the various legal and practical developments in the Country (including the approval and implementation of the Law on Protection of Children and Adolescents, approved on 20 May 2020, the Law on Reduction of Ta'aziri Imprisonment Punishment, enacted on 27 May 2020, the introduction of the Judicial Security Document and the Judicial Transformation Document as well as several human rights directives and instructions of the Chief of the Judiciary, etc.) reflect the determination of authorities to continue the process of further development and realization of justice and human rights; and
 - The present report has unfortunately distanced itself from the principles of report compilation for presenting a balanced text on the basis of impartiality and pre-judgment. It should be taken into consideration that provisions of a report need to be based upon verified information or issues, the judicial or legislative stages of which have already been passed through inside the country. The report shall not be a set of misguided words and phrases churned out carelessly, nor shall it contain claims received by the media, invalid websites, irrelevant and non-credible sources that are notorious for publishing lies and biased materials as well as fake news broadcast by terrorist organizations. In particular, it is expected that the report would be drafted based upon verified information and reflect issues properly while taking into account the principles of fairness and impartiality. Javaid Rehman has distanced himself from acting in careful consideration of the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council (A/HRCRES/5/2 adopted on 18 June 2007), and favored incorporating personal interpretation, pre-judgment as well as fabricated allegations in his reports.
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