
UN Human Rights Council
34th Session, Item 4 – March 13, 2017

ID with SR on Human Right in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Delivered by Mr. Yoel Mester,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN in Geneva

Thank you, Mr. President,

Israel would like to commend the Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran for her report, which highlights some of the grave human rights violations in Iran, such as the persecution of minorities and widespread executions.

When even Iranians living in exile are afraid to speak up, fearing that their families in Iran will be harmed, you know something is deeply wrong with this country.

Driven by a distorted set of values Iran imprisons human rights activists who advocate the abolition of the death penalty, as in the case of Ms. Narges Mohammadi. It persecutes women rights' activists, such as Alieh Motlabzadeh who was arrested for daring to attend a workshop in nearby Georgia. And only lately, it barred an 18 year old chess player from any activity, because she dared to play without a hijab.

Mr. President,

The Iranian punitive system holds the dubious record of executions by hanging of juvenile offenders, in the world. Iran's cruel torture and execution methods resemble those employed by the Islamic State: Amputation, blinding, flogging- all considered legitimate tools in the hands of the Iranian regime.

Mr. President,

Today Israelis celebrate the holiday of Purim, which recounts how the Jewish minority in ancient Persia was saved from utter annihilation. Nowadays in Iran, it is other minorities who are persecuted and oppressed, such as the Baha'is, Christians and Sunnis. Holocaust denial is still often promoted by the leaders of Iran.

We invite the Special Rapporteur to monitor not only the grave human rights violations in Iran domestically, but also examine how it exports these inhumane practices overseas.

Thank you, Mr. President.