
UN Human Rights Council
40th Session, Item 4 – March 7, 2019

ID with Special Rapporteur on Iran

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

Thank you, Mr. President,

We would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for his report, which contains important information about Iran's continuing human rights violations.

Forty years after the Ayatollah's took power in Tehran, Iran has positioned itself as the single most negative driver of regional instability.

When Ali Shirazi, a close aide of Iran's supreme leader publicly threatens that if given an excuse Iran will erase the Israeli cities of Tel-Aviv and Haifa, this constitutes a direct threat by the Iranian regime against the right to life of Israeli civilians, and it should be strongly denounced.

These are not just words, because Iran is hard at work advancing its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities, while providing terrorist groups like Hamas and Hizbullah with ever more deadly weapons and funds, at the expense of the Iranian people. Only a few days ago, the secretary of Iran's National Security Council, Ali Samkhani, boasted that Iran had equipped Hizbuallah and Hamas with accurate missiles to attack Israel.

But fomenting regional instability and operating terror organizations as proxies are only one side of the coin, the other being Iran's oppressive policies against its own population. The execution of juveniles, the denial of basic political rights from ordinary citizens, the cracking down on protesters, the oppression of women- all continue to plague the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Meanwhile, the dire situation of the many members of religious and ethnic minority groups in Iran, whether Kurdish, Azeri, Ahwazi or Baha'i became very clear to anyone who attended the Forum on Minority Issues last November in this very building.

Forty years on and the Islamic revolution has very little to be proud of, except wasted years and lost opportunities for generations of young Iranians.

Later this month the Iranian people will celebrate Nowruz, so let me end by wishing them that they finally regain the freedom they've been deprived of for so long.

I thank you Mr. President.