
**UN Human Rights Council
48thth Session, September 2021**

Item 4 – General Debate

Delivered by Ambassador Meirav Eilon Shahar
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

Thank you, Madam President,

Israel remains deeply concerned about the situation of Human Rights in Iran, including the widespread use of the death penalty. In 2020 alone, 267 people, including nine women, were executed, and today over 80 child offenders are on death row. We are also deeply concerned that the Iranian government frequently imposes these death sentences based on forced confessions extracted through torture or after unfair trials.

Madam President

Last month, the world was alarmed to see leaked footage from Evin prison showing prisoners living in inhumane conditions and being subjected to horrific beatings. This prison is infamous for its human rights abuses against innocent protestors and human rights defenders. It is also there that the Iranian regime holds hostage innocent individuals used to pressure other governments.

Madam President,

We are deeply alarmed by these abuses inside Iran and how the Iranian regime exports these practices through its armed forces and its proxies to other parts of our region.

Madam President,

This Council must urgently address the human rights abuses committed both in Iran and by its proxies in the region. There will never be stability in Syria, there will never be prosperity in Lebanon, and there will never be peace in Yemen, if the world does not address Iran's malign activity in the Middle East and beyond.

I thank you