
UN Human Rights Council
49th Session, 17 March 2022

Item 4 - ID with SR on Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Ambassador Meirav Eilon Shahaar
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

Thank you, Mr. President,

Thirty years ago to this day, the Iranian-backed terrorist organization Hezbollah took the lives of 29 innocent people in Buenos Aires, Argentina. My prayers go out to the families and friends of those murdered, those who were the victims of the Iranian government's abhorrent use of terrorism throughout the world. The Iranian government must be held accountable for this brutality abroad, but also held to account for the brutality they show towards innocent Iranians every day.

Mr. President,

The Iranian authorities continue to repress their own people and show complete disregard for human rights. The law on young people and protection of the family, ratified in November 2021, has exceptionally damaging consequences regarding the rights of women and girls, including their access to sexual and reproductive health.

The law also provides incentives to increase early marriage. It is highly alarming that 31,000 girls under the age of 14 in Iran were married last year. In addition to this, Israel is concerned by the increase in the number of women executed during the previous year.

Mr. President,

Israel is also highly concerned with the treatment of ethnic and religious minorities, including the Baha'is, Christians, and Sunni Arabs who continue to suffer from discrimination and oppression. The increase of executions of individuals from minority communities is particularly concerning. Moreover, it is shocking that the death penalty continues to be imposed for consensual sexual activity between persons of the same sex.

Mr. Special Rapporteur:

What more can this council do to address the deteriorating situation of Human Rights in Iran?