



*Mission Permanente
de la République Islamique d'Iran
auprès des Nations Unies
et des autres Organisations Internationales à Genève*

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Ref. 2050/851035

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the latter's Communication No. AL IRN 15/2021 dated 31 May 2021 concerning Golestan Cemetery, has the honor to transmit, herewith, the comment of the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran in that regard.

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



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In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Comment

By

The High Council for Human Rights

Of

The Islamic Republic of Iran

Regarding Golestan Cemetery

With regards to the claim on Golestan Cemetery, given the increase in population and urban development plans in most Iranian cities, the issue of the replacement of cemeteries inside the urban structure is being reviewed upon the demand by the public.

In Tehran, for example, regional cemeteries have been generally shut down and even the Mesgarabad Grand Cemetery (with hundreds of thousands of graves) has been converted to a public park and cultural structure.

It is noteworthy that 33 local cemeteries have been shut down to be converted into other application in accordance with the requirements of urban development and public health. According to the Law of Municipalities, all cemeteries that are currently placed inside the urban structure should be transferred out of the city (urban structure) – and the Golestan Cemetery is no exception.

In addition, a proper land has been already dedicated and ceded to the Bahai sect due to the belief of its followers on observing a distance between the cemetery and the city. The Bahai followers have been burying their deceased in this place for nearly the past 30 years and they have filed no complaint so far about that dedicated space but have published false claims in the media after being instigated by some hostile elements outside Iran.