



*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

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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. AI IRN 10/2022 dated 26 May 2022 concerning the allegations raised by some employees of BBC Persian, has the honor to transmit, herewith, the comment of the High Council for Human Rights 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

Concerning the allegations raised by some employees of BBC PERSIAN

(Joint Communication AL IRN 10/2022, dated 26 May 2022)

Pursuant to the letter titled "May 26, 2022 letter of some special procedure officials alleging harassment of BBC Persian employees", we hereby announce: the free movement of employees of the BBC Persian network and their families inside the country and their unimpeded return in recent years attest to the falsehood of the allegations; Therefore, inferring "harassment of the employees of the BBC Persian network" from the legal action against a few people and the prosecution of people who disrupt public order and national security is undue generalization that runs against the facts. Nevertheless, the network's existential philosophy and its track record of hostility against the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as its efforts to foment sedition at many critical points are no secret. Some of the hostile measures are delineated below:

The BBC Persian satellite channel was launched in 2008 by recruiting a number of radical opponents and critics of the Islamic Republic of Iran and with financial

support of the British government with the purpose of transforming and soft overthrow of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The majority of the employees have experience working for domestic media and some of them have pending cases in the judicial system of the country due to their radical anti-government positions and inciting public reactions. The network has targeted Iran's national security with media warfare and planned use of the related tools with the intention of influencing the opinions, cultures, policies, feelings, tendencies, behaviors and intellectual characteristics of different social groups. The track record of more than a decade of hostile activities by the BBC Persian network shows that this network has a negative attitude towards the Islamic Republic of Iran and that it routinely vilifies the government and tarnishes its image, insults Imam Khomeini, the supreme leader and other officials, promotes western values and ridicules Islamic and revolutionary values. The network also tries to disrupt mental peace of the society by inducing that the government is incapable of solving the people's problems and by claiming the existence of systemic corruption in the country. In line with these measures, the network tries to destroy social capital by preparing various reports, the network tries to induce hopelessness, despair, sadness and depression and destroy social capital and people's trust in the system and its officials.

- One year after the launch of the network and during the 2009 post-election riots, BBC Persian stepped in and set up a round-the-clock studio to cover the latest news of the riots and to provide field instructions to the rioters to disrupt public order and undermine the security of the citizens. The network maintained its approach in the riots and terrorization of January 2018 and November 2019. The following is a list of the most important measures by BBC Persian during these years:

- Instigating ethnic and religious conflict between different groups in Iran;
- Inducing despair and desperation about the country's future;

- Playing a key role in creating and igniting and fanning the flames of internal riots and terrorization;
- Laying the groundwork for destruction of public of trust in the government and its officials;
- Inducing incapacity of religion and weakening and destroying religious beliefs;
- Fueling internal economic crises in order to disrupt public order and psychological peace of the citizens.