

**Mandates of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; and the Special
Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran**

REFERENCE: UA
IRN 23/2016;

5 August 2016

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 27/1 and 28/21.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information we have received concerning alleged acts of intimidation and reprisal against Ms. [REDACTED], the sister of Mr. [REDACTED], in relation to the review of his case by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

According to the information received:

The case of alleged enforced disappearance of Mr. [REDACTED] was reviewed by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances during its 109th session, and transmitted to the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 6 June 2016. It is reported that following the transmission of the case, members of the Iranian security apparatus contacted Ms. [REDACTED] on her phone on multiple occasions instructing her to turn herself in. It is reported that when Ms. [REDACTED] requested an official summons, she was told by the agents: "we can arrest you any time on the street and take you to Evin prison".

Concern is expressed at these reported acts of harassment and intimidation of Ms. [REDACTED] and that they may be in reprisal for the recent review and transmission of Mr. [REDACTED]'s case by the Working Group. Concern is also expressed for the life and physical integrity of Ms. Rahemipour.

In connection with the above alleged facts and concerns, we would like to refer Article 13 (3) of the Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance, states that "Steps shall be taken to ensure that all involved in the investigation, including the complainant, counsel, witnesses and those conducting the investigation, are protected against ill-treatment, intimidation or reprisal".

We would also like to recall that, in its resolution 7/12, the Human Rights Council urged Governments to take steps to provide adequate protection to witnesses of enforced or involuntary disappearances, human rights defenders acting against enforced disappearances and the lawyers and families of disappeared persons against any intimidation or ill-treatment to which they might be subjected. The protection of families

of disappeared persons should be carried out regardless of the existence of criminal investigation.

The full texts of the human rights instruments and standards recalled above are available on www.ohchr.org or can be provided upon request.

In view of the urgency of the matter, we would appreciate a response on the initial steps taken by your Excellency's Government to safeguard the rights of the above-mentioned person in compliance with international instruments.

It is our responsibility, under the mandate provided to us by the Human Rights Council, to seek to clarify all cases brought to my attention. We would therefore be grateful for your observations on the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional information and/or comment(s) you may have on the above-mentioned allegations.
2. Please provide information on any specific measures taken to protect the life and the physical integrity of Ms. [REDACTED].
3. Please provide information on any measures taken to ensure that the relatives of the disappeared are not exposed to any further threats, intimidation or harassment.

We would appreciate receiving a response within 60 days.

While awaiting a reply, we urge that all necessary interim measures be taken to halt the alleged violations and prevent their re-occurrence and in the event that the investigations support or suggest the allegations to be correct, to ensure the accountability of any person(s) responsible for the alleged violations.

Your Excellency's Government's response will be made available in a report to be presented to the Human Rights Council for its consideration.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Houria Es-Slami
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

Ahmed Shaheed
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran