



*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. 2050/2638901

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 UA IRN 10 / 2025 dated 3 July 2025 enclosed with the Joint Urgent Appeal from Special Procedures, has the honor to transmit herewith, comments from the High Council for Human Rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this 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.

Geneva, 18 Septemeber 2025



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Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
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In the Name of God

Correspondence No. UA IRN 10/2025 dated July 3, 2025, containing allegations regarding the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, has been received. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in full compliance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and the rules of international law, firmly rejects these unilateral, selective, and unsubstantiated allegations. The content of the correspondence is based on incorrect information and unreliable sources, which are mainly published by opposition groups and hostile media abroad.

The positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran, broken down by the issues raised, are as follows:

1. Executions and the Judicial System

The Islamic Republic of Iran is an independent country with a judicial system based on a constitution and statutory laws rooted in Islamic jurisprudence. All sentences, including death sentences, are issued and carried out only after thorough judicial processes, including due process, access to lawyer, and the possibility of appeal. These sentences are issued only for the “most serious crimes” as defined in Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Crimes such as espionage for hostile regimes, collaboration with enemies, and terrorist acts that endanger national security and the lives of millions of citizens are prime examples of these crimes. The claim of “forced confessions” is also invalid, as Iranian law prohibits any form of torture to obtain a confession, and any confession obtained under duress is considered invalid in a court of law.

Amid ongoing media manipulation, at the same time as the Zionist regime’s military aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the issue of “intensifying the execution of death sentences, especially in security cases” has been raised; a

claim that has neither legal validity nor is it consistent with the existing realities. During the mentioned period, only the final sentences of six people, namely [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] were executed. Based on solid documentation and legal evidence, these individuals have been tried in competent courts, mainly on charges such as espionage, collaboration with the Zionist regime, and terrorist acts.

The process of arrest, investigation, trial and sentencing of these individuals dates back to previous years, and after going through all the stages of the trial and observing the principles of fair trial, their sentences became final and enforceable. The execution of these sentences during the war does not in any way mean that it is related to recent developments, but is the natural and legal result of a long and meticulous judicial process. Therefore, the claim of an increase or escalation of executions during the war has no legal or historical basis and is merely part of a psychological and media operation to divert public opinion from the Zionist enemy's blatant aggression against Iran's national sovereignty.

2. The Condition of Prisoners and the Arrests

All arrests and transfers of prisoners in the Islamic Republic of Iran are carried out solely in accordance with legal regulations and with the aim of maintaining security and order in prisons. The recent transfer of prisoners from Evin Prison was a preventive and necessary measure in response to external security threats, including the Zionist regime's attack on Iranian airspace. The Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to observing "minimum standard rules for the treatment of prisoners within the limits of existing facilities and capacities and strives to ensure the basic needs of prisoners, including health services, proper nutrition, and contact with families, within the framework of the law. Prisoners' families are also informed of the whereabouts of their loved ones as soon as possible.

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Following the military aggression of the Zionist regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran, some hostile media outlets and movements aligned with the aggressor's approach engaged in media manipulation by making a baseless claim under the title of “widespread and arbitrary detention of citizens”, while the existing facts show the opposite of these claims. During this war, the country's intelligence and security bodies, strictly observing legal standards and obtaining orders from the judicial authority, only identified and detained a limited number of individuals who, according to existing documents, were suspected of espionage and communication or cooperation with the aggressor. These measures were mainly carried out based on public reports and in line with the protection of national security and public demands.

In all cases of arrest, the individuals were immediately brought before the judicial authorities and the process of explaining the charges was carried out in accordance with the law and by issuing legal orders, including temporary detention orders if necessary. The stages of investigation, interrogation and detention of the accused were also carried out with full respect for their rights, including the right to remain silent, the right to access to a lawyer and other rights stipulated in Articles 190, 194, 195 and 199 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Despite the war conditions, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always tried to observe the principles of fair trial and, even in special situations, adhere to its international obligations, including the provisions of Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The cases are still in the preliminary stages of investigation and the judicial process continues with full precision and supervision.

Accordingly, the claim of widespread and arbitrary detention is not only baseless, but also an attempt to undermine the process of countering enemy infiltration and espionage in wartime conditions. The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes its adherence to legal principles, observance of citizen rights, and respect for

international obligations, and notes that all measures taken in this regard have been carried out based on solid evidence, security reasons, and in line with protecting national interests.

3. Information on Internet Access and Information Circulation

Amid the Zionist regime's military aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran, some media outlets and hostile movements, following the enemy's propaganda line, claimed “widespread media restrictions and filtering” inside the country; a claim that contradicts the existing realities. A careful examination of the actions of the responsible institutions shows that all decisions taken in this regard were within the framework of legal and international standards.

According to accepted rules of international law, including Article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in exceptional circumstances such as war, States have the authority to impose temporary restrictions necessary to protect public security and the vital interests of the State, provided that such restrictions are not discriminatory and comply with the principles of proportionality and necessity. During the 12-day war, in light of widespread cyber attacks on the country's infrastructure, including banking networks, public service systems, and communication platforms, some temporary and targeted restrictions were imposed on access to foreign platforms. These decisions were taken solely with the aim of protecting citizens' personal information, maintaining the psychological integrity of society, and preventing the spread of false information by enemy-affiliated groups.

Contrary to the claims of hostile media, citizens were never completely cut off from communication. Access to the national information network, official news systems, domestic media, and local messengers was available to the general public, and information flow through these channels continued uninterrupted. Thus, the principle of the free flow of information within the framework of the national

structure was maintained, and there was no disruption to the people's essential communications.

Finally, what has been proposed by the opposing movements under the title of “media restrictions” was in fact a legal, proportionate, and temporary measure within the framework of the government's authority in emergency situations; a measure that was taken with the aim of protecting public rights, safeguarding national security, and confronting the enemy's combined war, and that has been and will be gradually reviewed and adjusted after the crisis subsides.

4. Allegations of Discrimination against Minorities and Afghan Nationals

The Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to the equality of all its citizens, regardless of ethnicity or religion, and the country's constitution guarantees the full rights of recognized religious minorities (Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians). The allegations of discrimination against minorities are contrary to the legal and social realities in Iran and are not consistent with the legal structure and practical functioning of the country.

Regarding Afghan nationals, contrary to the media manipulation surrounding the “escalation of deportations” in conjunction with the 12-day military aggression by the Zionist regime, detailed investigations show that the Islamic Republic of Iran has begun implementing a voluntary return plan since February 2025, taking into account the economic and social challenges resulting from the presence of several million Afghan refugees. This plan is being implemented in full compliance with humanitarian standards and human rights and based on the principle of national sovereignty as stated in the United Nations Charter (Article 2). Official statistics show that more than 91 percent of returns have been completely voluntary and within the legally established deadlines, and special arrangements have been made for

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vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied children, unaccompanied women, and individuals with special conditions to prevent any forced return.

In addition to coordination with international institutions such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration, this process is managed in cooperation with domestic institutions such as the Ministry of Interior, the Police, the Red Crescent Society, and non-governmental organizations to ensure that security, order and human dignity are observed at the highest possible level. Extensive services have also been provided throughout the years of Afghan nationals' residence in Iran; in 2023 alone, about 800,000 Afghan children have been registered in Iranian schools, and hundreds of thousands of foreign nationals have benefited from free or subsidized health and medical services, comprehensive health insurance, and social protection. This is while the presence of several million Afghan nationals – which far exceeds international standards (3 percent of the population) – has placed significant pressure on the country's economic, educational, and health infrastructure.

The implementation of the voluntary return plan is in fact a response to the widespread demands of Iranian citizens to regulate the status of unauthorized nationals and protect the economic rights of the nation. At the same time, the Islamic Republic of Iran has tried to establish a logical balance between maintaining national security and public interests on the one hand and fully respecting the rights of migrants on the other. In addition, given the Afghan government's announcement of a general amnesty and the existence of relative safety conditions in this country, the ground for voluntary return of migrants has been better prepared, and screening and case-by-case processing mechanisms have been considered for vulnerable groups.

These extensive and comprehensive measures clearly demonstrate that the Islamic Republic of Iran has adopted a principled, ethical approach that is consistent with the highest international standards, not only in the humane management of the

return of refugees, but also in its sustained support for them over the past four decades. The international community must recognize its historical responsibility for the Afghan crisis and, instead of adopting political and unilateral positions, support Iran in managing these complex challenges. The Islamic Republic of Iran's balanced, humane, and responsible approach to Afghan refugees is a unique model on a global scale that deserves international appreciation and support.

5. New Bill of the Parliament

One of the claims raised against the Islamic Republic of Iran during this period is related to the country's laws, decrees, and security policies. Among the issues that received attention and attack from hostile media outlets affiliated with hostile powers was the "plan to increase the punishment of espionage for the Zionist regime." In response to these kinds of propaganda, it should be emphasized that this plan is not a new and novel issue, but rather a result of the practical experiences and security records of the Islamic Republic of Iran in dealing with espionage and sabotage. The Zionist regime's continuous and destructive actions in the security, cyber, and intelligence fields, including the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists in recent years, are considered a serious threat to the country's national security, and leaving it unanswered means ignoring the sovereign responsibility in ensuring public security.

Another point is that this plan has not yet gone through all the final stages of its approval and implementation and is still being reviewed and completed within the framework of the country's legal mechanisms. Therefore, the claim that it is definitive or that it will be implemented has no validity or legal basis. In addition, such plans are not only part of the country's official security policies, but are also a response to public demand and public pressure to effectively confront the influence and sabotage of foreigners, especially the Zionist regime. In the social atmosphere

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of Iran, strengthening deterrent and punitive laws against espionage is considered an inevitable and rational necessity to maintain national sovereignty, public cohesion, and the security of citizens.

The hostile media attack on such plans is more a deliberate attempt to undermine Iran's defense and security capabilities against its real enemies than a genuine concern for human rights or international law. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in accordance with the undisputed principles of national sovereignty, has the right to develop its deterrent and protective tools in proportion to the threats it faces; a right that no foreign actor can distort or limit.

Closing Remarks

The Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to cooperate constructively with international human rights mechanisms within the framework of mutual respect, objectivity, and political impartiality. We believe that such unilateral and misinformed correspondence not only does not contribute to the advancement of human rights, but also undermines the credibility of the Special Procedures system.

We call on the international community to consider the complex security realities that Iran faces, including oppressive sanctions and terrorist and sabotage attacks. Iran is ready to exchange views in a constructive dialogue based on mutual respect.