



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Twentieth session

Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

### **Written statement\* submitted by the Women's Human Rights International Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[3 June 2012]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

## **Failure to address the situation of political prisoners in the Islamic Republic of Iran**

Consecutive and intentional deaths that had resulted due to lack of attention and care of political prisoners in Iran have aroused global attention.

Health care to state prisoners is an internationally accepted principle, a principle that does not exist and is deliberately ignored in Iran, so the prisoners suffer and die as a result.

The deaths amongst political prisoners that occurred during the past two years must be considered by the Special Rapporteurs on Human Rights in Iran:

Mr. Mohsen Dokmehchi was arrested in September 2009 and was transferred to the notorious Ward 209 at the Evin prison where he was put under severe physical and psychological torture.

He was sentenced to 10 years in prison for financial assistance to families of political prisoners, and the presence of her daughter at Camp Ashraf. He had contacted digestive disorder while in prison and was denied medical services till his condition was acute and untreatable.

He had pancreatic cancer and the prison official had denied permission to transfer him to the hospital for chemotherapy. He was forced to live his last days in severe pain and on March 28 2011 died in prison.

Another prisoner, Mr. Mansoor Radpour 44 years old, was arrested in May 2007 and in two separate sentencing in branches 1 and 8, of the Islamic Revolutionary Court in Tehran, was charged with "acting against national security" and "cooperation with the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran,". He was sentenced to a total of eight years in prison.

Mansoor Radpour spent five years in prison under very harsh conditions. He was held in a section of the Gohardasht prison known as the "End of the line" and "Sagdooney" or the Dog house. This place was located at the Ward 4 of the prison and is known as the killing grounds of the political prisoners a place in which they gradually wither and die.

As a result of long term physical torture Mansour Radpour had contracted many diseases including lung disease and bleeding ulcers. The prison officials did not permit his transfer and on May 21 2012 due to lack of medical care died in prison.

Hoda Saber, journalist and translator and a religious and national activist is another political prisoner who died while on hunger strike in June 2011.

After his death, 64 political prisoners in ward 350 of Evin Prison signed an affidavit, claiming the death was as a result of the beatings by the prison security guards.

We support designating Ahmad Shaheed as the "Special Rapporteur" and encourage his efforts for improving the human rights situation in Iran.

We specifically ask Ahmad Shaheed to report on the situation of political prisoners who are in need of urgent medical care. In this regard report on the practice of the Iranian officials depriving prisoners of medical services as a method of arbitrary execution.