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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Joint written statement* submitted by International Federation of Business and Professional Women, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status, Women's Human Rights International Association, Association Internationale pour l'égalité des femmes, Human Rights Research League, International Multiracial Shared Cultural Organization, Les femmes, la force du changement, Presse Embleme Campagne, WomenNC-NC Committee for CSW/CEDAW, Women's Network for Change, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, Association of World Citizens, a non-governmental organization on the roster

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

[5 February 2024]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



The Islamic Republic of Iran: The Investigation into the Repression of Demonstrators Must Continue

Following the bloody repression of the nationwide uprising triggered by the tragic death in custody of 22-year-old Jina Mahsa Amini on September 16, 2022, in Tehran, the families of the victims and human rights defenders have called for an investigation by international bodies.

The Human Rights Council, in its resolution S35/1 on the deteriorating human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in particular that of women and children, adopted on November 24, 2022, therefore decided to set up the FFMI, an independent international fact-finding mission on the gross human rights violations committed by the Iranian authorities during the uprising. This mandate of the FFMI will end at the 55th session of the Council in March 2024, unless it is renewed.

Jina Mahsa Amini's fate is far from an isolated case. Another example is A.G., a 16-year-old high-school student who was seriously injured during her violent arrest in the Tehran metro for being "ill-veiled", died on October 28, 2023, after 28 days in a coma.

The human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran is more than alarming, with the recent wave of executions mainly targeting ethnic and religious minorities, political dissidents, women and particularly aimed at demonstrators in the recent uprisings. The frightening figure of 850 hangings in 2023 is unprecedented in the last eight years. At least twenty political prisoners and nine protesters have been executed so far.

According to the Iranian authorities, tens of thousands of people were arrested during the protests. Many remain in prison and their lives are in danger. Amnesty International's report "They violently raped me", published on December 6, 2023, based on interviews with 45 witnesses who have been raped, highlights the use of sexual violence as a weapon to crush the uprising and the persistence of brutal repression of demonstrators.

At a time when the behavior of the religious government towards the Iranian people has not changed, and when its pursuit of impunity even encourages it to further violate the fundamental rights of Iranians, the extension of the FFMI's mandate is not only essential, but an absolute necessity.

We call on the member states of the Human Rights Council to act urgently to extend this mission for a further year, so that it can complete its investigation and finally hold the authorities to account for its crimes.

Women's UN Report Network - WUNRN, Association Des Femmes Irlandaises En France (AFIF); Italian Federation for Human Rights, Associazione delle Donne Democratiche Irlandiane residenti in Italia; Comité de Soutien aux droits de l'homme en Iran (CSDHI); Hands off cain, Iranska Kvinnosamfundet i Sverige (IKSS) (Sweden), Iran Human Rights Monitor, Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme (France), Associazione Italiana per i Diritti Umani in Iran (Italy), Associazione Iran Libero E Democratico- Torino – Italia, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.