



SITUATION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN IRAN

46TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – ID WITH THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

9 MARCH 2021 – GENEVA

Thank you Madam President,

ECPM, Kurdistan Human Rights-Geneva, Iran Human Rights and the Abdorrahman Boroumand Center welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on Iran and would like to echo at his deep concern about the alarming use of the death penalty in Iran.

Iran is one of the world's top executioners. In 2020, over 230 executions were reported. An estimated 3000 people sentenced to death, including 85 juvenile, are currently held in Iranian prisons.

The number of crimes punishable by death is among the highest in the world and as underlined by the Special Rapporteur in his report, most of them do not meet the threshold of "most serious crimes".

We are seriously concerned that some executions in 2020 could not be stopped despite an unprecedented mobilisation by the international community and within the Iranian society.

We also want to draw the Council's attention to the use of the death penalty as a tool of political repression, especially against minorities, the members of Kurdish, Baluchis and Ahwazi-Arab ethnic groups.

We call on the international community to urge the Iranian authorities to:

- immediately end the campaign of arbitrary arrests of Kurdish and Baluchis citizens and release all those arbitrarily detained;
- reform the judicial system; and
- establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

We thank you for your attention.