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ICJ Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of the Islamic Republic of Iran
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The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) welcomes this opportunity to present its submission to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This review is of key importance given the persistent and longstanding failure of Iran to meet many of its human rights obligations and the wave of fresh human rights violations in the country in the aftermath of the June 2009 disputed presidential election.

The Human Rights Council (Council) and its Working Group on the UPR (Working Group) should address the serious violations of human rights in Iran, including the impairments to the right to life and to freedoms of opinion and expression and assembly, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and other ill treatment and punishment, violation of the right to a fair trial, and discrimination against women. These violations have been repeatedly noted and addressed by the United Nations General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights through resolutions in the past years.¹ It is also essential to recall the obligation of Iran to cooperate with international human rights mechanisms, including the Special Procedures of the Council and the treaty bodies.

Use of unlawful force against peaceful protesters and restrictions on freedom of opinion and expression

The ICJ remains concerned at the consistent reports documenting violations of freedom of opinion and expression, especially attacks on human rights defenders, including the arbitrary detention of journalists and the excessive reactions to student demonstrations, in particular their arbitrary arrest and detention and ill treatment.

The situation in this respect further deteriorated after the disputed presidential election in June 2009. After the announcement of the victory of the incumbent president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, protests broke out in Tehran and other major cities in Iran against the alleged election fraud and irregularities.² In response to initially largely peaceful demonstrations, the Government attempted to ban the rallies³ and conducted a harsh crackdown on protests. Media reports revealed clashes between the police and protesters,⁴ police suppressing demonstrators with sticks and tear gas, while the pro-government militia, the Basij, used ammunitions and clubs to force back supporters of other presidential candidates.⁵ There

¹ See e.g. UN General Assembly Resolution, *Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran*, UN Doc. A/RES/62/168, 20 March 2008; General Assembly Resolution, *Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran*, UN Doc. A/RES/63/191, 24 February 2009, and Commission on Human Rights Resolution, *Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran*, UN Doc. E/CN.4/RES/2001/17, 20 April 2001.

² *Protests Flare in Tehran as Opposition Disputes Vote*, 13 June 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/14/world/middleeast/14iran.html>.

³ *Iran protesters defy rally ban*, 15 June 2009, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8099952.stm.

⁴ *Ahmadinejad re-election sparks Iran clashes*, 13 June 2009, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8098896.stm.

⁵ *Violence Grips Tehran Amid Crackdown*, 20 June 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/21/world/middleeast/21iran.html>.

have also been media reports of extra-judicial executions and injuries of peaceful demonstrators. On 22 June, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed concern over the use of force against civilians leading to the loss of life and injury and called on Iran to respect civil and political rights.⁶ Independent UN human rights experts also urged the Government to abstain from using excessive force and fully guarantee freedom of expression and assembly.⁷

Iran, in accordance with its obligations under Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) must respect and protect the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. While the Iranian Constitution implements this obligation by guaranteeing the right to hold public gatherings,⁸ the actual practice of obstructing peaceful assembly through the application of vaguely defined restrictions⁹ of the constitutional right is manifestly in contravention of Iran's obligations under international human rights law.

In addition to repressing the demonstrations on the streets of Tehran, Iranian Government imposed restrictions on foreign media¹⁰ and blocked various means of communication,¹¹ including social network websites, in order to stifle the opposition voice. Newspaper belonging to reformist Mehdi Karoubi was suspended after he alleged some post-election detainees had been raped in jail.¹²

Although the Iranian Constitution does not specifically enumerate freedom of opinion and expression among the rights of individuals, it still guarantees other related rights, such as freedom of opinion and expression of ideas on radio and television.¹³ However, according to the Special Rapporteur on the freedom of opinion and expression, the Press Law and the Penal Code of Iran pose a number of limitations upon the freedom of opinion and expression, most of which do not conform to the permissible restrictions provided under Article 19, paragraph 3 of the ICCPR.¹⁴ The broadly worded limitations are often adopted by the Government to suppress the freedom of expression in various forms.¹⁵

The ICJ calls on the Working Group and the Council to recommend to the Government:

- **To ensure full respect of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression and assembly and refrain from any interference with the lawful exercise of those rights;**
- **To review legislative restrictions on the rights to freedom of opinion and expression and assembly, respecting the safeguards and observing the permissible restrictions set up in Article 19, paragraph 3 and Article 21 of the ICCPR;**
- **To fully investigate the allegations of violations arising from the operations by the police and militia during the demonstrations in the aftermath of the presidential**

⁶ Statement attributable to Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General, on the situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 22 June 2009, <http://www.un.org/apps/sg/sgstats.asp?nid=3938>.

⁷ Joint Statements by the Special Rapporteurs on extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions, on freedom of opinion and expression, on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, on human rights defenders, and the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on arbitrary detention, *Human Rights Expert Gravely Concerned at Killings and Arrests in Iran*, 19 June 2009, <http://www.unhcr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/0/A218C0676826AD37C12575DA0045BB8C?opendocument>; *Mass arrest in Iran spark grave concerns from UN human rights experts*, 8 July 2009, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31394>.

⁸ Article 27 of the Iranian Constitution.

⁹ *Ibid.* Article 27 of the Iranian Constitution stipulates that public gatherings and marches may be freely held, provided arms are not carried and that they are not detrimental to the fundamental principles of Islam.

¹⁰ *Iran clamps down on foreign media*, 16 June 2009, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8103269.stm

¹¹ *Iran blocks TV, radio and phones*, 15 June 2009, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2009/jun/15/iran-jamming-technology-tv-radio-internet>

¹² *Iran's police clash with protesters over daily's closure*, 17 August 2009, <http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-Iran/idUSTRE57G3IW20090817>

¹³ Ambey Ligabo, Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, *Report submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Addendum: Mission to the Islamic Republic of Iran*, UN Doc. E/CN.4/2004/62/Add.2, 12 January 2004, paras. 24-25.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 95.

¹⁵ Human Rights Watch, *Iran: Freedom of Expression and Association in the Kurdish Regions*, 6 January 2009, pp. 29-32.

election and hold the perpetrators accountable for the violations of human rights and for the killings and injuries caused;

- **To provide for remedy and full reparation to the victims or to the families of those unlawfully killed during the crackdown of protests.**

Arbitrary arrest and detention and torture and other ill treatment of detainees

In the protests that followed the 2009 presidential election, some 4,000 people have been arrested and detained as of August 2009, with approximately 3,700 inmates having been released within a week.¹⁶ As stated in the previous section, the protesters were allegedly arrested largely for peacefully exercising their human rights guaranteed constitutionally and by the international human rights instruments. Such practice may render the arrests and detention arbitrary and in violation of Article 9, paragraph 1 of the ICCPR.¹⁷

The arrested protesters, whether released or not, have also been deprived of other rights guaranteed under the ICCPR. Those who have been arrested and kept in detention were not duly informed of the charges brought against them, which is in contravention of Iran's obligation under Article 9, paragraph 2 of the ICCPR.¹⁸ According to the media, those who have been released allege to have been subjected to torture and other ill treatment, including being held in inhumane conditions, aiming at extracting "confessions".¹⁹ Techniques applied in the interrogation include deprivation of sleep, food and drink, solitary confinement, and beating.²⁰ Prior to the recent incidents, past UN reports have also revealed cases of torture and ill treatment of persons deprived of their liberty.²¹

Articles 7 and 10 of the ICCPR prohibit torture and other ill treatment and impose a positive obligation upon State parties to afford detainees humane treatment. Article 38 of the Iranian Constitution prohibits all forms of torture. However, the failure to prevent, investigate and punish acts of torture and ill treatment results in impunity for violations and further contributes to the recurrence of such abuses.²²

On August 8, 2009, Iran's Prosecutor-General acknowledged that mistakes in the detention facility had led to "painful accidents, which cannot be defended."²³ In addition, the Government has faced allegations of sexual abuse in prison raised by the presidential

¹⁶ *Iran admits 4,000 June detentions*, 11 August 2009, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8195586.stm.

¹⁷ See the report of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, *Report of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Addendum: Visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran*, UN Doc. E/CN.4/2004/3/Add.2, 27 June 2003, para.42 [hereinafter: *Report of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention*] that describes the past practices of arbitrary arrest and detention.

¹⁸ See e.g. the statement by the UN Human Rights Council's Special Procedures on torture, human rights defenders and arbitrary detention, *Reported torture of Iranian election protesters worry UN rights experts*, 13 August 2009, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31756>.

¹⁹ *Son of leading scientist dies in jail as fears grow over fate of Iran's political prisoners*, 26 July 2009, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jul/26/iran-political-prisoners-mohsen-rouholamini>; *Reports of Prison Abuse and Deaths Anger Iranians*, 28 July 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/29/world/middleeast/29iran.html>.

²⁰ *Arrested, beaten and raped: an Iran protester's tale*, 1 July 2009, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jul/01/iran-protest-arrests-afshin-friend>; Sarah Rainsford, *Fear grows for Iranian detainees*, 3 July 2009, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8133329.stm.

²¹ See e.g. Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, *Final Report on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights*, UN Doc. E/CN.4/1993/41, 28 January 1993, paras. 102-124; Manfred Nowak, Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Addendum: Summary of information, including individual cases, transmitted to Governments and replies received*, UN Doc. A/HRC/4/33/Add.1, 20 March 2007, paras. 86-114; Human Rights Committee, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties under Article 40 of the Covenant: Iran (Islamic Republic of)*, UN Doc. CCPR/C/79/Add.25, 3 August 1993, para. 10 [hereinafter: *HRC Concluding Observations*].

²² Human Rights Committee, *General Comment No. 31: The Nature of the General Legal Obligation Imposed on States Parties to the Covenant*, UN Doc. CCPR/C/21/Rev. 1/Add. 13, 26 May 2004, para. 18.

²³ *Iran admits election demonstrators were tortured*, 10 August 2009, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/aug/09/iran-protesters-torture-election>; *Iranian Acknowledges Torture of Some Protesters*, 8 August 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/09/world/middleeast/09iran.html>.

candidate, Mehdi Karroubi. Although the Government initially denied those charges,²⁴ Majlis - the parliament later pledged to study the evidence of rape claims.²⁵

The ICJ encourages the Working Group and the Council to urge the Government:

- To cease the practice of arbitrary arrest and detention and interrogation techniques amounting to torture or other ill treatment, whether to obtain information or “confessions”, or to undermine the freedom of opinion and expression;
- To ensure that anyone arrested is informed of the charges brought against him/her;
- To investigate the allegations of torture and other ill treatment, including sexual abuse towards the detainees, prosecute the alleged perpetrators and punish those responsible;
- To prevent recurrence of acts of torture and ill treatment, in particular when committed by persons acting in official capacity, including by establishing effective monitoring of places of detention and by ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

Deprivation of the right to a fair trial

Following the arrests of demonstrators in the post-election protests, 10 charges against the protesters were filed.²⁶ The public and press, including foreign media have been excluded from covering the proceedings, which have been conducted largely in contravention with obligations under Article 14 of the ICCPR. The first trial of more than 100 protesters commenced on 1 August 2009, during which a few notable opposition leaders “confessed” to conspiracy of “overthrowing” the Government.²⁷ As of August 2009, there have been four trials of post-election protesters, the last of which involved several former ministers and government officials.²⁸ Following the reports of torture and ill treatment under interrogation, it is believed that the confessions were extracted unlawfully, and a number of UN human rights experts voiced concerns over such practice, emphasizing that “confessions” obtained under torture should not be considered in courts.²⁹ The prosecutors in these cases bear the burden of proof that the statements made during the trials by defendants have been given voluntarily.³⁰ Otherwise, any information, including testimony, confession, or oath obtained by means of torture or other proscribed ill treatment is inadmissible in judicial proceedings.³¹

Families of the detained demonstrators have alleged that the detainees had been kept incommunicado and without adequate legal assistance. Similar shortcomings in Iranian criminal proceedings have been reported over the years, including the persistent reports of those individuals tried in Revolutionary courts being unable to prepare adequately for defence.³² Many prisoners remain unaware of their rights to request legal assistance, while counsels of those who exercise such rights face harassment or even prosecution.³³

²⁴ *Iran jail rape claims baseless*, 12 August 2009, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8196940.stm; Robert F. Worth, *Iran Denies Allegations That Protesters Were Raped in Prison*, 12 August 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/13/world/middleeast/13iran.html>.

²⁵ *Majlis ready to study Karroubi's rape claim evidence*, 21 August 2009, <http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=104105§ionid=351020101>.

²⁶ *Iran starts trial of election protesters*, 1 August 2009, <http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=102172§ionid=351020101>

²⁷ *Iran Broadcasts Confessions by 2 Opposition Figures on Trial*, 2 August 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/03/world/middleeast/03iran.html>

²⁸ *Top Iran reform figures on trial*, 25 August 2009, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8219782.stm

²⁹ *Op.cit* 17.

³⁰ Human Rights Committee, *Nallaratnam Singarasa v. Sri Lanka*, Communication No. 1033/2001, UN Doc. CCPR/C/81/D/1033/2001, 23 August 2004, para. 7.4.

³¹ See e.g. Article 38 of the Iranian Constitution and the Human Rights Committee, *General Comment No. 20 on Article 7: Prohibition of torture, or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment*, 10 March 1992, para. 12 [hereinafter: *General Comment No. 20*].

³² *HRC Concluding Observations, op cit*, para. 12.

³³ *Report of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, op cit*, paras. 49-50.

The right to equality before courts and to a fair trial is enshrined in Article 14 of the ICCPR. Among the requirements contained in this provision is the principle of equality of arms. The accused must have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of their defence. In other words, persons charged with a criminal offence must have access to documents and other evidence, including exculpatory materials and materials that are used against the accused.³⁴ In addition, the accused should be granted prompt access to counsel of his or her own choosing, with communications in private and confidence.³⁵ Once the criminal charges are brought against the individuals and examined in a tribunal, absent exceptional circumstances, a hearing must be open to the public, including members of the media.³⁶

The Working Group should recommend that the Human Rights Council urge the Government:

- **To ensure the right to a fair trial as provided under international standards, including but not limiting to adequate legal assistance, full access to evidence used against the accused and observance of presumption of innocence;**
- **To refrain from interference with and harassment of legal counsel chosen by the defendants and compelling defendants to testify against themselves or to confess guilt;**
- **To provide to the public, media and observers with effective access to trials.**

Corporal punishment, death penalty, and juvenile executions

The practice of corporal punishment, including amputation, flogging, and stoning, is still present in Iran,³⁷ despite its incompatibility with the prohibition of cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, as provided under Article 7 of the ICCPR.³⁸ Iran is obliged to cease excessive chastisement ordered as punishment for a crime or as an educative or disciplinary measure.³⁹

The number of death sentences imposed and carried out in Iran has been amongst highest in the world. In 2008, more than 300 people were executed, including several juvenile offenders.⁴⁰ Coupled with the poor implementation of due process guarantees and the right to a fair trial, the alarmingly high impositions of a death penalty show systematic breach of Iran's international legal obligations. Both the ICCPR and the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR require States Parties to eventually apply capital punishment only to the "most serious crimes." Iran's practice of imposing death penalties for crimes of an economic nature and for crimes that do not result in loss of life is considered to be contrary to the criterion of seriousness.⁴¹ Another serious concern in this regard is the practice of public executions. Despite the circular announced by the judiciary banning public executions in January 2008,⁴² public executions have been reported in 2009.⁴³

³⁴ See e.g. Human Rights Committee, *Concluding Observations on Canada*, UN Doc. CCPR/C/CAN/CO/5, 20 April 2006, para. 13.

³⁵ Human Rights Committee, *Saadat Khomidova v. Tajikistan*, Communication No. 1117/2002, UN Doc. CCPR/C/81/D/1117/2002, 25 August 2004, para. 6.4; *Gridin v. Russian Federation*, Communication No. 770/1997, UN Doc. CCPR/C/69/D/770/1997, 20 July 2000, para. 8.5.

³⁶ Human Rights Committee, *General Comment No. 32 on Article 14: Right to equality before courts and tribunals and to a fair trial*, UN Doc. CCPR/C/GC/32, 23 August 2007, para. 29.

³⁷ Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General, *Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran*, UN Doc. A/63/459, 1 October 2008, paras. 27, 35-36 [hereinafter: *Report of the Secretary-General*].

³⁸ See e.g. Manfred Nowak, Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment*, UN Doc. A/HRC/10/44, 14 January 2009, para. 37 or *HRC Concluding Observations, op cit*, para. 11.

³⁹ *General Comment No. 20, op cit*, para. 5.

⁴⁰ Amnesty International Report 2009: The State of the World's Human Rights, p. 176.

⁴¹ *HRC Considerations, op cit*, para. 8.

⁴² *Report of the Secretary-General, op cit*, para. 33.

⁴³ *Execution of 13 for terror attacks reveals Iran's next move: intimidation*, 16 July 2009
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jul/16/iran-terrorism-executions-analysis>

Of particular concern is Iran's practice of imposing the death penalty for adult consensual sexual conduct. Under Articles 108-111 of the Islamic Penal Code, sodomy, defined as sexual intercourse between men, is punishable by death. Under Articles 127-131, consensual sexual conduct between women is punishable by 100 lashes for each party. A fourth conviction is punishable by execution.

There are conflicting reports as to whether death sentences for homosexual conduct have been carried out since 2005. Some reports have indicated that death sentences imposed for crimes such as rape are an attempt to conceal an underlying offense of consensual sodomy. Regardless, the continued existence of these provisions violates Iran's obligations under Article 6, paragraph 2 of the ICCPR. There has also been a crackdown on "immoral behaviour" that began in 2007 and which led to a series of raids on private homes and mass arrests.

Juvenile executions, are prohibited absolutely under international law, including under the ICCPR and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).⁴⁴ Iran continues to carry out such executions, irrespective of a moratorium issued by the judiciary.⁴⁵ In August 2009, Iranian news agency reported that the judiciary chief halted the planned execution of 7 convicted criminals, including a man who was under 18 when he committed the crime.⁴⁶ Nevertheless, temporary suspension of execution is by no means in conformity with Iran's obligations, which call for immediate reforms in the juvenile justice system.⁴⁷

The Working Group and the Council should recommend that the Government of Iran:

- **Abolish corporal punishment, in particular for offences committed by persons below the age of 18;**
- **Refrain from the widespread use of the death penalty, in particular in instances not involving the most serious crimes;**
- **Review the Penal Code and abolish the death penalty, and in the interim establish a moratorium on executions as requested through the General Assembly resolutions 62/149 and 63/168.**

Gender discrimination and gender-based violence

Gender discrimination in Iran persists both in law and practice. Gender-biased provisions in the Civil Code enhance women's vulnerability in cases involving marriage and inheritance, while biased rules in the Penal Code deny women effective access to justice. The Council of Guardians has mostly rejected the efforts to reform discriminatory laws.⁴⁸ Women rights defenders are often intimidated, detained, or tried by the authorities.⁴⁹

Iran has not yet ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Still, Iran must respect its obligations under Article 3 of the ICCPR and of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and provide for the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of rights and

⁴⁴ See Article 6, paragraph 5 of the ICCPR and Article 37 a) of the CRC.

⁴⁵ *Report of the UN Secretary-General, op cit*, para. 37.

⁴⁶ *Iran halts execution of seven people*, 19 August 2009, <http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-Iran/idUSTRE71100520090819>.

⁴⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding observations: The Islamic Republic of Iran*, UN Doc. CRC/C/15/Add.254, 31 March 2005, paras. 29-30.

⁴⁸ Yakin Ertürk, Special Rapporteur on the violence against women, its causes and consequences, *Report submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the violence against women, its causes and consequences, Addendum: Mission to the Islamic Republic of Iran*, UN Doc. E/CN.4/2006/61/Add.3, 27 January 2006, para. 29 [hereinafter: *Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences*].

⁴⁹ UN Secretary General's statement of 3 January 2009 on harassment and persecution against Mrs. Shirin Ebadi and the forced closure of the Defenders of Human Rights Center; see also *Secretary-General's Report, op cit*, para. 53; *Iran: Government takes hard line on supporters of rights of women* – statement by the UN experts, 27 November 2008, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=29103>.

for the equal protection under the law of men and women, which is also guaranteed by Article 20 of the Iranian Constitution.

The ICJ urges the Working Group and the Council to recommend that the Government:

- **Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and review and amend domestic laws in light of the obligations therein;**
- **Cease the crackdown on women rights defenders, protect rights defenders against any violence, threats, discrimination or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of their legitimate effort to promote human rights and ensure their peaceful exercise of the freedom of opinion and expression, and assembly and end impunity for human rights violations;**
- **Provide prompt and effective protection to women exposed to violence or risk to their personal security.**

Cooperation with United Nations human rights treaty bodies and the Special Procedures of the Council

As a State Party to the ICCPR and ICESCR, Iran is obliged to regularly submit reports to the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights respectively. Reports to both bodies have been over a decade overdue. Moreover, the concluding observations adopted by the two committees in 1993 have not been substantially implemented.

Requests of the relevant Special Procedures of the Council to visit Iran, including the Special Rapporteurs on torture, on extra-judicial, arbitrary or summary executions and on independence of judges and lawyers have remained unanswered despite the fact that Iran issued a standing invitation to all Special Procedures.

The Working Group and the Council should recommend that the Government of Iran:

- **Submit the reports on the implementation of its treaty obligations under the ICCPR and ICESCR and incorporate the recommendations of the treaty bodies into the domestic laws, policies, and practices;**
- **Extend invitation to the Special Procedures of the Council with pending requests to visit Iran.**
