

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3607/09
by Domenico Antonio Basile (UEN)
to the Council

Subject: Human rights in Iran

Over the last few days the young artist Delara Darabi was hanged in the Iranian prison of Rasht, with no prior warning given to either her parents or her lawyers; several years ago, when she was still underage, she had accused herself of a murder she had not committed but for which her boyfriend at the time had been responsible, as later emerged from dozens of admissions and pieces of evidence.

Such an 'execution' is in breach of the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

In the equally infamous fortress prison of Evin, the Iranian authorities are holding in solitary confinement the 31-year old freelance US-Iranian reporter Roxana Saberi, after having sentenced her to thirty years, pending appeal; in actual fact, she is guilty not of espionage but of having provided information on the depravities of the ayatollahs through her reports, which were broadcast by the BBC and published in the US press.

Terror is enveloping the whole of Iranian society, and the regime's torturers, if they cannot get rid of the most renowned voices of dissent, had no scruples when it came to Zahra Kazemi, an Iranian-Canadian reporter who was tortured to death and, more recently, the blogger Mir Sayafi.

Recent events in Iran are certainly not an appropriate response to the policy of openness and dialogue recently adopted by US President Obama, which has been welcomed by the most authoritative political and institutional bodies in Europe and the most liberal social circles of the old continent.

Does the Council therefore not consider that it would have every reason to:

1. withdraw, possibly in agreement with the US Administration, the hand which has been outstretched to Ahmadinejad (also because his are covered in the blood of innocents) and start taking a new hard line towards Tehran based on respect for human rights and involving the governments of Iran's two major trading partners – Germany and Italy;
2. ask the UN to give its opinion on the infringement of its own Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which has been ratified also by Iran, and to act as a mouthpiece for a 'morally appropriate' policy in respect of the many tyrants still in existence throughout the world – a policy which should be different from the one currently adopted by the UN, which allows the Iranian President to be welcomed on the banks of the Hudson with full honours and hypocritically to portray himself, from such an authoritative stage, as the harshest critic of world perversion?