

UPR of the Islamic Republic of Iran

5 February 2010

Statement by Norway

(Not delivered due to time constraints)

Norway thanks the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the presentation of the national report. We await the answers to our advance questions.

Effective cooperation with the UN Human Rights machinery is fundamental to improve the human rights situation on the ground. Iran has issued a standing invitation to all thematic special procedures mandate holders. We recommend that Iran honours this commitment and facilitates as a matter of priority the visits requested and agreed upon in principle, including the Working Group on enforced and involuntary disappearances, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial summary or arbitrary executions and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief.

This is even more important following the disproportionate and excessive use of force against the Iranian civilian population during the unrest after the June 2009 Presidential Elections. We recommend that the above mentioned special procedures are given full access also to investigate the killings, arrests and detentions of thousands of demonstrators and civil society advocates who have been affected by the post-election crisis in Iran.

Human rights defenders play an important role in fostering a culture of human rights. We remain concerned about the working conditions and the vulnerable situation of human rights defenders in Iran, in particular defenders of women's rights. The continued closure of the Centre for Human Rights Defenders is of special concern. We recommend that complaints of harassment, intimidation or arbitrary arrests of human rights defenders are investigated, and that those responsible are prosecuted and punished. Further, we recommend that the Centre for Human Rights Defenders is allowed to reopen and that Dr Shirin Ebadi is allowed to return to Iran.

Iran is one of very few countries in the world who still execute juvenile offenders. This is in conflict with both the CRC and the ICCPR and we recommend the Iranian government to immediately halt the execution of all individuals who allegedly committed crimes before they reached 18 years of age.

In Iran, a number of rights for women are conditional upon the approval of the father of husband. We recommend that Iran takes concrete steps to ensure equal rights for men and women in line with its obligations according to ICCPR and ICESCR. Further we recommend that Iran ensures equal access to employment for women and men.

We appreciate that Iran in its National Report pledges to consider accession to CEDAW and CAT and recommend that this process is being dealt with as a matter of priority.