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Statement of Ireland

52nd session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Islamic Republic of Iran

Tuesday 21st March

Thank you Mr Vice President

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Special Rapporteur for his update.

We regret that the Special Rapporteur has been unable to visit the country, and call on Iran to cooperate fully with the mandate and provide access.

Ireland remains deeply concerned by the deteriorating human rights situation in Iran, particularly the severe restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. We are concerned that human rights defenders, women's rights activists and journalists are being specifically targeted for their work.

We call on the Iranian authorities to release those who have been arrested simply for exercising their fundamental rights. We also condemn the disproportionate and unjustified use of violence against protestors by the Iranian authorities.

Ireland deplores the use of the death penalty in all circumstances. We call on the Iranian government to implement a moratorium on executions.

We remain concerned by continuing discrimination against specific groups. Iran must ensure that the rights of ethnic and religious minorities are protected, including members of the Kurdish, Baloch, and Baha'i communities. Iran must also take concrete steps to safeguard the rights of women and girls, particularly to ensure their right to education and eliminate gender-based discrimination.

Special Rapporteur, how can the international community best support Iranian civil society organisations, particularly those working on improving the human rights situation for women and girls?