



Balochistan People's Party

**Fifth Forum on Minority Issues 2012-11-27**

*Challenges and problems encountered in the practical implementation of the Declaration*

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Thank you Madam Chair,

It is a great challenge to implement the declaration in practice. The Islamic regime of Iran has yet to recognize Iran's different ethnic minorities with cultural, religious and linguistical differences such as the Ahwazi Arabs, Azerbaijani Turks, Baloch, Fars, Kurd, Lur and Turkmen as well as Bahai and Yaresani, as equal in their collective rights. It is also very challenging for the Islamic regime to encourage conditions for the promotion of the identity of these minorities, due to ongoing policies and approaches from the Islamic regime.

Despite article 15 of the Islamic regimes constitution and article 27 of the ICCPR, minorities face discrimination in exercising their right to use their own language. This issue is the tip of an iceberg, of a more extensive challenge where students from early age are disadvantaged by commencing their schooling in a foreign language, and thus following behind. This not only resulting in poorer results in comparison to the national average, but also slowly erasing their cultural identity.

Madame Chair, Balochistan has the lowest cultural development in Iran. Effective participation in cultural, religious, social, economic and political life for minorities face great challenges in its practical implementation. The rigid and centralized top to bottom model of the Islamic regime of Iran is an obstacle for minorities, resulting in people not being able to effectively participate in decisions on national and regional level where they live.

This is clearly amplified by the Gozinesh law which is an ideological screening of citizens, that denies minorities participation in cultural, public and political life. This practice has resulted in the UN repeatedly expressing its concerns over the effect of this discriminatory law towards minorities.

We recommend that the UN investigate the shortcomings in the rule of law and weaknesses in the judicial system in Iran. And why international fair trial principles are not followed, which results in judges being given significant freedom of choosing between the penal code or Sharia law.

We recommend that the UN take measures in the seriousness of the situation where the UN special Rapporteur for Human Rights to Iran is not granted access to visit the country.

And finally that the UN Special procedures mandate holders, should make special efforts during country visits, and in particular request to visit ethnic minority regions like Balochistan where collective violence occur and the people are marginalized in many aspects.