

## **6th session of the Forum on Minority Issues**

### **V. Promotion of constructive interfaith dialogue, consultation and exchange**

ARC

Minorities in Iran face several types of discrimination. These discrimination against are (...) minorities and as religious minorities, so they have to conduct several battles. There is the ministry of state for ethnic and religious minorities in order to change the view of these minorities as a security problem, unfortunately, the former minister of the interior has not been able to make a progress. In fact, those around him, are used to the more violent forms of oppression of minorities. Therefore, the situation has not improved. There is a need for educating minorities in their own languages and the association of Azerbaijan and Turks have not yet been re-established, contrary to the promises of the government. On the contrary, we deplored the increase of police repression against the Azerbaijani minority. Currently, over two hundred are in prison (...) for various reasons. We recommend, madam chair, the complete abolition of the assimilation policy of Azerbaijanis or other minorities, whether by ethnic or religious grounds, we demand that the Azerbaijani and Turkish language are recognised as official languages, we demand that the Azerbaijani and Turkish institution be re-established and that all forms of discrimination be done away with (...) grounds of ethnic and religious considerations. We demand the liberation of all religious and cultural prisoners, the elimination of all discrimination against minorities.

Thank you, madam chair.