

Thank you, Mr. President,

Iran has a multitude of peoples, minorities, and religions but the situation of minorities in terms of the conduct of the the judicial system, the police, and the security apparatus does not reach the international or even local human rights standards.

The judiciary contributes to the suppression of political movements of peoples and minorities, especially Ahwazi Arab. This in cooperation with the security apparatus and the intelligence [agencies], especially in relation to the mass executions of activists [belonging to] peoples and minorities.

The Iranian Vice-President, Ali Yunis, said that the perspective of the security [apparatus] controls the mentality of the men of the state in Iran towards the minorities. This important issue shows us that the security perspective controls the state's decision toward minority cases.

The other important issue is the politicization of the Iranian judiciary, which is subjected entirely to the will of the security apparatus. Consequently, the issuance of death sentences in the courts of the revolution increased against activists, especially [against] Arab, Kurds, and Baluchis.

The Iranian authorities have executed 70 Ahwazi Arab activists on flimsy security or political charges, such as threatening national security, fighting against God and His Prophet, and similar [charges]. The Iranian police practice excessive violence against Ahwazi Arab, especially during peaceful protests. On the past 9th of November, a young man, Ali Reda Jalali, aged 17, was killed at the hands of a police officer, who randomly opened fire at him during a raid by security forces on popular cafes, bars, and restaurants in the Nahda and Shakrabad neighbourhoods.

We demand that the Iranian government commits, as a party, to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and respects freedom of expression in accordance with Article 19, and the freedom of peaceful assembly in accordance with Article 21 of the same charter.

Finally, we demand that Ahwazi Arabs be allowed to use their mother tongue in courts and police stations, to ensure their rights and not be exposed to discrimination.