

United Nations

Human Rights Council / oral statement to the Eleventh Session of the Forum on Minority Issues,
Statelessness: A Minority Issue/ Root causes and consequences of statelessness affecting minorities:
preventing statelessness through a human rights approach

The International educational development would like to address the roots and consequences of statelessness.

First, I would like to remind the first article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as we are celebrating this year its 70th anniversary. Art.1 of the Universal Declaration stipulates that: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

Today, 70 Years after this Declaration, unfortunately, we must admit that our reality is different. We are not equal, neither in dignity nor in rights.

In Iran, since the first days of the Islamic Republic, since 1979, Kurds, but also other minorities, are subject to execution and multiple discrimination, curtailing their access to education, employment and political office.

The authorities continue to execute hundreds of Kurds after unfair trials. In many cases, even the bodies are not given back to the families for the funeral- such as in the case of Zanyar and Luqman moradi, that has been executed in September. Others, like the executed political prisoner Ramin Hossein Panahi, executed also in September of this year, have been buried by the Iranian authorities themselves, hundreds of kilometers far away from their families.

Iran's border guards shoot and kill, with full impunity, unarmed Kurdish men known as Kulbars who work as cross-border porters between Iraqi and Iranian Kurdistan. Further, the paths which are used by them are covered by landmines. Only this year more than 190 cross-border porters have been killed.

Human rights activists and members of minorities who speak out against violations of their rights face arbitrary arrest, ill-treatment and the death penalty.

Statelessness is a major human rights issue, and this can be said with absolute certainty.

In Iran, all these systematic and serious human rights violations are an obvious result of the statelessness and are based on the Shi'a ideology of the state.

In the conclusion, we call on this Forum to urge the Iranian government to revise its national laws and to finally adopt the ratified international human rights conventions.

International educational development

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