

1MSK MUN 2019

Social Humanitarian Committee

The question of the human rights in Iran

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Iran is a country in Western Asia, with over 81 million inhabitants. Iran is bordered to the northwest by Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, to the north by the Caspian Sea, to the northeast by Turkmenistan, to the east by Afghanistan and Pakistan, to the south by the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, and to the west by Turkey and Iraq. The most common religion is Muslim and Iran is a Muslim theocratic state.

Iranian people by religion, 2011 General Census Results^[376]

Religion	Percent of population	Number of people
Muslim	99.3989%	74,682,938
Christian	0.1566%	117,704
Jewish	0.0117%	8,756
Zoroastrian	0.0336%	25,271
Other	0.0653%	49,101
Not declared	0.3538%	205,317

FACTS

- More than four thousand people were arrested in connection with protests over the disputed 2009 elections. Hundreds more have been arrested since then in connection with protests. Rights groups say the government denies due process and fair trials to detainees and uses systematic torture in its prisons and detention facilities.

- Under the administration of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Iran's human rights record "has deteriorated markedly," according to Human Rights Watch, and following the 2009 election protests there were reports of killing of demonstrators, the torture, rape and killing of detained protesters, and the arrest and publicized mass trials of dozens of prominent opposition figures.
- In October 2012 the United Nations human rights office stated Iranian authorities had engaged in a "severe clampdown" on journalists and human rights advocates.
- Rights groups accuse the Iranian authorities of imposing the death penalty and using execution as a political tool. A 2013 report by the UN Special Rapporteur notes an increase in executions, both official and secret. It says 297 executions were officially announced by the government and about 200 secret executions were confirmed by family members, prison officials and members of the judiciary in 2012.
- After the election of Hassan Rouhani as President, he stated "Women must enjoy equal opportunity, equal protection and equal social rights", although Iran still has "a long way to go" to achieve gender equality. The topic of women's reform is contentious in Iran, with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khomeini

saying that gender equality was “one of the biggest mistakes of Western thought leader”.

- On 19 December 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted a Canadian-sponsored resolution expressing “serious concern” about Iran's high rate of executions without legal safeguards, ongoing use of torture, widespread arbitrary detentions, sharp limits on freedom of assembly, expression, and religious belief, and continuing discrimination against women and ethnic and religious minorities.
- The Iranian constitution allows equal rights for men and women "in conformity with Islamic criteria." One of the few positive notes in the UN rapporteur's 2013 report related to advances in literacy, access to education for women, and women's health during the past 30 years. For instance, literary and primary school enrollment rates for women and girls were estimated at near 100 percent. According to the World Economic Forum's 2010 Gender Gap report (PDF)--which compared disparity between men and women on economic participation, access to education, health, and political empowerment--Iran ranked 123 out of 134 countries. This was better than most countries in the region, ahead of Egypt, Morocco, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and even Turkey. However, the UN report notes that the application of certain laws is a barrier to gender equality in Iran. For instance, a woman's worth and testimony in a court of law is regarded as half that of a man's.

- Iran's largest non-Muslim religious minority, the Baha'i, has historically been discriminated against and continues to be denied jobs and educational opportunities, and face arbitrary detention and unfair trials. There are rising reports of such abuses committed against other religious minorities, reported the U.S. State Department in May 2013 as part of its annual report on international religious freedoms.

Taking into consideration the afore mentioned facts and others if relevant, lets try to answer these questions:

1. What is the state of human rights today in Iran? Are there recognized rights for women, children?
2. Are there recognized rights for minority groups?
3. Is it a society that evolves and transforms? Are there indications of change in the near future?
4. In which way the Muslim religion affects the level of human rights in Iran?

USEFUL SITES:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Iran

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_the_Islamic_Republic_of_Iran

<https://iranhumanrights.org/>

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/asiaregion/pages/irindex.aspx>

