

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

**Right of Reply by the Islamic Republic of Iran
Under Agenda Item 4
Ninth Session of the Human Rights Council
Geneva, 17 September 2008**

Mr. President,

My delegation in exercising right of reply with regard to the statements made by the Representatives of EU and Canada on situation of human right in the Islamic Republic of Iran would like to state the following points:

First of all Mr. President, let me make it clear that the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoyed by a long and rich culture, history and civilization, inspired by the high teachings and principles of Islam, and in accordance with its progressive Constitution, is fully aware of its obligations and responsibilities in the filed of human rights and while making every effort to further promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms at national and international levels, will not let any country to interfere in its internal affairs or to impose one specific culture as human right.

Undoubtedly, the published evidences on the role of the Government of France in 1994 genocide in Rwanda as well as its role in the case of abduction of Sudanese and Chadian children together with deteriorating situation of ethnic, racial and religious minorities, numerous cases of discrimination, racial discrimination and restrictive policies towards Muslims and Islamic symbols in France, and similarly, the UK Government's record of human rights violations particularly with regard to ethnic, racial and religious minorities and the most recent case of killing of a 16 year old Muslim student by racist attack in UK as well as its involvement in severe breaches of international human rights and humanitarian law in Afghanistan and Iraq, and also Canada's cases of systematic abuse of human rights of indigenous peoples would not put those Government in a position to teach the others the lessons of

human rights.

Nevertheless and for sake of clarity, Mr. President, I would like to inform the distinguished members of Council that contrary to the false accusations made by the said Governments no cases of stoning or any cases of execution for minors have been carried in Iran. In the Judicial System of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Qesas or retribution in kind, is the verdict for premeditated murder and for that purpose, enforcement of Qesas depends upon the request of the guardians of the murder victim. During recent years every effort has been made by the relevant authorities to obtain the consent of the guardian of the murder victim which has been successful in at least 38 cases ~~since 2008~~ during past year

Finally, Mr. President, with regard to Bahais, I would like to inform the Council that all Iranians citizens enjoy their full Constitutional rights. In accordance with the constitution, all are equal before the law and quiet naturally whoever breaches the legal boundaries is subject to relevant legal procedures in accordance with the rule of law, regardless of his or her beliefs.

Thank you,