

IRAN Right of Reply

In exercising my delegations right of reply with regard to the references made by the UK Minister to my country this morning, I would like to state the following:

There are serious violations of human rights occurring in the United Kingdom and it has had one of the worst human rights records in Europe. Various UN human rights treaty bodies and special rapportuers have already expressed concern on a series of human rights violations in the United Kingdom including:

- increasing racial prejudice against ethnic minorities, asylum-seekers and immigrants;
- high number of harassments by the police against members of ethnic or racial minorities;
- disadvantaged situation of women belonging to ethnic minorities in employment and education;
- high incidents of deaths in custody of members of ethnic or racial minority groups;
- limited applicability of the Convention Against Torture to the actions of armed forces abroad;
- unsatisfactory conditions in detention facilities including inter-prisoner violence, overcrowding and unacceptable conditions of female detainees;
- increase in the incidence of domestic violence including sexual violence against children within families, schools and in detention centers;
- religious inequalities in the labour market, housing, education, policing and criminal justice agencies;
- grave situation of journalists and human rights defenders in Northern Ireland including cases of death threats, arrests and detention;
- cases of racial and religious profiling in counter-terrorism efforts by the Government officials as well as the abuse of counter-terrorism laws which target the Muslim population and in general the erosion of human rights in the UK under counter-terrorism legislation;

Having said that, and considering long and unqualified

support of the UK for Israeli regime, despite all atrocities committed in Palestine during the past 60 years and the new recent aggressions against the Palestinian civilians in Gaza strip which was totally ignored by Mr. Minister in his statement, UK could not be in a position to judge arrogantly human rights situations in other countries.

Secondly I should reiterate that the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoyed by a long and rich history, culture and civilization, inspired by the teachings and principles of Islam and in accordance with its Constitution, is fully aware of and committed to its obligations and responsibilities in the field of human rights and makes every efforts to further promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels.

Therefore, we recommend the distinguished Minister of the UK, instead of taking a politicized and double standard approach towards human rights issues in the human rights Council, have a look at home and address deteriorating human rights situation in its own country.

Thank you