

# Islamic Republic of

# I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

## Statement by

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**Before the Third Committee**

**on the agenda Item 67 (c):**

**Human rights situation and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives**

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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the merciful

**Mr. Chairman,**

The item under consideration is one of the important items on the agenda of the Third Committee. However, we have been reluctant to make statements on the specific situations due to the lack of an objective definition to guide our deliberations in a fair, comprehensive, impartial and non-politicized manner.

Sadly, the long-standing practice of few countries in dealing with this item is indicative of their frequent attempt to use it more as an instrument of fault finding, naming and blaming exercise than a vehicle to bring understanding for the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide. Such few states, being traditionally assertive and at times aggressive in the field of human rights, tend to divide the world into two confronting blocks: human rights claimants and human rights defendants. The so-called claimants have always the habit of attributing human rights violations to others, while striving to portray their own human rights record as perfect.

In fact, all countries face a variety of challenges to and impediments in the fulfillment of their human rights obligations, and thus no country can claim perfection in its human rights record. Besides, such an attitude cannot conceal the truth, which is that all States, be they from the North or from the South, are equally presented with human rights predicaments and more or less experience violations in various forms based on their societal structures, and thus are equally accountable to the collective conscience of the international community.

The aggressive policies adopted by certain western countries lie in their political agenda that, on the one hand, disregards the gross violations of human rights in many parts of the world that fall directly or indirectly under their influence, and on the other hand, unjustly treats the countries that are not considered as "allies". The appalling situations in Guantanamo bay, the disclosure of torture in the Iraqi prisons by the occupying forces especially in the Abu Ghraib prison, the existence of secret detention centers in Europe, the inhumane treatment of the Palestinian people by the Israeli regime are but a few examples of gross violations of human rights committed by the so-called claimants and self-proclaimed champions of human rights. Yet, the perpetrators continue to maintain stereotypes by blaming and condemn others for violation of human rights, while shirking away from their responsibility for the violations they commit in different forms.

### **Mr. Chairman**

Discrimination on the basis of religion and ethnic origins in many western countries has been on the rise in the past several years. Muslims and certain ethnic minorities are subject to verbal and physical attacks as well as discrimination in jobs and housing. They are even deprived from practicing their religious duties and requirements in public places such as observing their religious and traditional dress code.

Muslims are unfairly and falsely branded with and accused of extremist ideas, thus being increasingly and systematically targeted by police and security agents. It is even more unfortunate and alarming that certain politicians in the West are racing to play on public fears on ethnic and religious groups, particularly Muslims, in the West.

As one of the latest act of growing discrimination on the basis of religion and ethnic origins in the western countries, the media recently reported the dismissal of dozens of workers from an airport in Western Europe after having been identified as practicing Muslims. It could not be portrayed as an isolated case, as it followed several other cases of similar nature in the same country this year.

The same pattern of rights violations is in display in Canada as a concrete example. There is a grave concern over the situation of individuals deprived of their liberty awaiting trial or sentencing, continued allegations of police brutality and of inappropriate use of illicit chemical agents by law enforcement authorities in the context of crowd control, disappearances and murder of aboriginal women and extra judicial summary or arbitrary executions. Indigenous women and girls continue to suffer from a high level of discrimination and violence. There were also concerns that counter-terrorism practices did not conform with human rights obligations. I decline to go further to bring to the attention of this august meeting other cases of human rights violations committed by the Government of Canada. Such violations have been enumerated by different international human rights bodies especially by the Human Rights Committee in its report of 2006.

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**Mr. Chairman**

We believe that all peoples in all parts of the world, irrespective of their ethnicity, race and religion deserve to live in dignity and respect. A dignified and prosperous life requires a social and political system free from discrimination, injustice and inequality. In this context, it is the view of my delegation that the international community should pay attention to human rights situations in all corners of the world without exception or ulterior considerations. Hence, time has come to put an end to the practice of overlooking the situation of human rights in the West where the rights of certain segments of society particularly minorities and immigrants are systematically and persistently infringed. In the same vein, the aggressive policies of certain western countries against the independence and integrity of developing countries, which have ultimately given rise to the violation of human rights in the targeted countries and peoples, should receive serious attention and need to be appropriately dealt with.

I wish to conclude by emphasizing the need for approaching human rights issues in a cooperative and constructive way. In our view, the policy of confrontation and finger-pointing has thus far failed to achieve the long-awaited objective of promoting and protecting human rights in today's world. Time is ripe to reverse this unhealthy and counterproductive course.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.