

Islamic Republic of

I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by:

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Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations

on the Resolution L.41:

“Situation of Human Rights
in the Islamic Republic of Iran”

New York, November 21, 2006

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

The draft resolution on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran is unwarrantedly once again on the agenda of the third Committee. As it was the case in the past, the present draft is also another politically-motivated exercise, pursued by the Government of Canada to serve its narrow political purposes and interests.

The move, we are dealing with today, brings once again to light the unfortunate fact that the UN human rights mechanisms have constantly been abused and manipulated to address political interests of a few—the few that audaciously and persistently arrogate to themselves the exclusive ownership of the process of human rights protection within the UN system. Indeed, it demonstrates how human rights considerations are clearly subjugated to and tainted by political considerations at the expense of the credibility and integrity of the UN human rights machinery. This bitter fact was underlined by the Secretary General when he, in the course of UN reform deliberations, noted that the integrity of the Human Rights Commission had been questioned because of the fact that some who invoked human rights principles had failed to uphold in practice the venerable principles that they were preaching.

Mr. Chairman,

In principle, Iran does not oppose the human rights scrutiny of UN Member States by the UN relevant bodies. During the discussions on the UN reform, my delegation wholeheartedly supported the recommendation of the High-Level Panel to have an annual report on the situation of human rights worldwide. We believed that proposal deserved to be accepted and implemented unreservedly if we were serious to help promotion and protection of human rights globally. Nonetheless, those few, whom I have just referred to, put up strong objection to adopt such a useful recommendation that meant to treat all countries equally in the domain of human rights.

We wonder if any member of this world body could claim that the situation of human rights within its territory should be beyond the international scrutiny. A pertinent question is therefore arises as whether the present system permits a worldwide scrutiny? The answer is terribly discouraging and disturbing. It is an undeniable fact that the present system of human rights monitoring is selective, arbitrary, partial and unproductive. As a result, it is no wonder that under such a system, Canada with a questionable human rights record on many aspects of human rights, particularly on the rights of indigenous peoples and immigrants, and also known as a relentless supporter of the Israeli regime's crimes against the Palestinians, assumes itself to be in a position to table a draft resolution on the situation of human rights in my country.

Various reports of Human Rights Council bear testimony to the fact that Canada and other sponsors of this draft resolution are themselves implicated in serious human rights violations for which they must be held accountable. Increasing discrimination against immigrants in Europe, United States and Canada, the gross violation of human rights and international humanitarian law by the US under the pretext of war on terrorism, the extraction of information through torture by some sponsors of this draft, the establishment of secret detention centres in various parts of the world especially in Europe, the long pre-trial

detention of suspects in various western countries, are but a few examples among many others that figure notably on the long list of rights violations by the sponsors of this draft resolution. No one can deny that the speedy increase in Islamophobia and defamation of Islam and Islamic values in the western world have seriously violated the basic rights of the Muslim populations in those countries.

In reality, the claim by Canada and its partners on human rights advocacy has proven to be a pure myth, as they have, on numerous occasions, put on display their fully politicised approach to human rights issues. It is worth mentioning that the sponsors of the draft resolution before this Committee today are mostly those who have repeatedly ignored and even supported the gross violation of the most basic human rights of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples by the Israeli regime. These so-called claimants of human rights chose to vote against three draft resolutions on Israeli atrocities committed against the Palestinian and Lebanese people in three consecutive Special Sessions of the Human Rights Council recently. Moreover, and as the latest example in this regard, Canada and some other cosponsors of this draft resolution, that hypocritically cry wolf about the situation of human rights in Iran, are the same parties who, last Friday, stood against the will of the 156 members of this august Organization and opposed a resolution dealing with the horrendous crimes perpetrated by the Israeli regime against the defenceless Palestinian people.

This has yet again brought to light the true nature and hidden agenda of such countries' approach to human rights issues, which obviously amounts to making a mockery of human rights itself, as well as the whole international human rights machinery. It is also ironic that the Israeli regime, with an appalling and unspeakable record of war crimes and systematic violation of human rights, that only recently massacred more than 100 innocent Palestinians in cold blood, is among the co-sponsors of the draft. This alone is telling enough and adequately self-explaining that how ill-intended, deceitful and preposterous this politically motivated move by Canada is.

Mr. Chairman,

The draft resolution L.41 consists of baseless accusations and unfounded claims. The situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran that this draft purports to describe is predicated only on its sponsor's illusions and fantasies, thus lacking any connection with the reality on the ground. It contains general references to alleged violations, which are repetition of previous similar resolutions. In certain parts of the draft, reference has been made to isolated cases that may occur in any society but provide no justifications for such an unfair approach.

All in all, the draft is an accusatory paper geared to launching political propaganda to serve Canada and other sponsors' political purposes, either relating to their domestic politics or in line with their illegitimate and ulterior foreign policy goals. Yet, we should remind them all that the policy of defamation and distortion of facts directed against the Islamic Republic of Iran has thus far led to nowhere. Long years of practicing this policy should have taught its initiators and sponsors important lessons that Iran will not submit to pressure, intimidation and defamation. The Islamic Republic of Iran, on the basis of the Islamic values and its international obligations, has always been fully committed to respect the dignity of all human beings and has made serious and genuine efforts to protect and promote human rights at the national and international levels. Iran is a dynamic and progressive society. The Government and people of Iran are determined to realize a society based on social justice, democracy and

good governance. We are committed to ensure and enhance the participation of all people in social and political life as our Constitution requires.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that the best approach to promote and protect human rights across the globe is to engage in a meaningful and sincere cooperation. Politicization, double standard, partiality and selectivity lead to confrontation. We have always stressed that cooperation, mutual understanding and respect should lie at the heart of interactions on human rights and enable Member States to use the existing mechanisms to effectively promote and protect human rights worldwide. On such a basis, we have held four rounds of human rights dialogue with the EU since 2002. Both sides have decided to resume these talks later in December this year. The focus of these dialogues is on human rights concerns in both Iran and the EU member states equally. Besides, Iran has also been engaged in bilateral human rights dialogues with some other countries and has constantly expressed its openness and resolve to hold such dialogues and interaction with others who may wish to do so.

Nevertheless, the adoption of this unwarranted politically motivated draft resolution could only create a situation which would diminish prospects for cooperation and understanding in the field of human rights in the future, including the current dialogue with the EU. We have strong preference for dialogue and cooperation. And as I said earlier, possibilities for dialogue already exist, but resolutions as a mechanism for confrontation can only impede them. Moreover, the adoption of this draft resolution will put at risk Iran's other international cooperation in the field of human rights, including the present cooperation with the UN human rights mechanisms. Sadly, it has become evident that Iran's good intention to cooperate with special procedure of the Office of High Commissioner not only has been negatively responded by the so-called claimants of human rights, but has also been misused in projecting the situation of human rights in Iran. That may in turn lead us to reconsider the standing invitation that Iran has extended to the thematic rapporteurs since 2002.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, as I explained, the Canadian draft resolution against Iran solely seeks political interests and goals that its sponsors pursue. It certainly lacks credibility and fairness as far as our human rights situation is concerned. It thus immensely undermines the goals of the UN in the area of human rights.

In view of these considerations, and in order to preserve the dignity, credibility and legitimacy of the UN human rights mechanisms, I hope the members of the Third Committee choose the right path by saying no to the draft resolution L.41.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.