



Permanent Mission of the
Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations Office and other

Statement by

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the Islamic Republic of Iran**

before

**the High Level Segment of
the 19th Session of the Human Rights Council**

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In the Name of God, the Compassionate the Merciful

**Madam President,
Honorable Ministers and Heads of Delegations,
Madam High Commissioner,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I have the pleasure to address this momentous High Level Segment of the Human Rights Council. My presence here today bears testimony to the special importance my Government attaches to the Human Rights Council.

Madam President,

This Session of the Council is being held at the time when important developments in the Middle East continue to unfold. As I stated before this august body last year, Middle East people's long ignored aspiration for independence from foreign domination, freedom and democracy should be highly appreciated and respected both by their respective governments and the international community. I also warned against ill-intended attempts by certain powers, both within and outside the region, to obstruct people's will to build a prosperous future based on respect for human rights, rule of law, human dignity and equality. We are all well advised to be highly alerted against mischievous campaign to sow discord and create divisions among nations by fomenting sectarian and religious differences.

Madam President,

Less than two years after the public uprising, the people of the Middle East have achieved a lot in their quest for dignity and freedom. I would like to take this opportunity to extend, on behalf of the Iranian nation, my sincere congratulations to the people of the region in particular the Egyptians and Tunisians for their important achievements in institutionalizing rule of law

and democracy through parliamentary elections. Lots are yet to be achieved, the path toward democracy and independence from foreign domination is a cumbersome process which requires perseverance and diligence.

The quest for change and restoration of human dignity has not been limited to the Middle East and North Africa as it also has inspired many people in other parts of the world including in the Western hemisphere to stand up against the greedy minority and to seek their long overdue basic rights for life in equality and dignity. It is regrettable, and actually a matter of grave concern, that the peaceful protest representing the aspiration and will of the majority has been aggressively and brutally suppressed in the United States and the United Kingdom. We urge the two governments to abide by their moral and legal obligations in respecting the will of their people and put an end to widespread violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms which is manifested in their excessive use of force against peaceful protesters.

Madam President,

Inspired by its rich historical, traditional and Islamic heritage and as one of the cradles of civilization, Iran continues its efforts towards promotion of human rights based on the recognition of an interactive and cooperative approach. Iran's commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights remains serious and is deeply rooted in its willingness to achieve the goal of a brighter, happier and more prosperous future and its desire to work for the betterment of the lives of its citizens.

Just in four days from now (Friday, 2nd of March 2012), the Iranian nation will demonstrate its rights enshrined in the Constitution through casting their ballot in the parliamentary elections. My government has been steadfast in exerting democracy and the right to elect for the past three decades and this has led into winning the trust of its people which in turn has

resulted in high turnout of people in the elections. The 9th parliamentary elections will be held throughout the country to elect 290 members of the Parliament. The upcoming elections and the other elections held in the past 3 decades in Iran well indicate a sustainable and flourishing democracy in my country.

Madam President,

While making the utmost efforts to promote the nation's prosperity and well-being, Iran is facing a number of challenges as a result of its independent policy. After the victory of the Islamic Revolution, certain Western states, unjustly agitated by the fall of their friendly dictator, resorted to all kinds of unlawful coercive measures, including unilateral sanctions, and support of terrorist groups to exert pressure against a nation who chose to be independent and free from historical unjust domination.

Unilateral economic and financial sanctions have been imposed as tools of political pressure against my country to prevent Iranian nation from exercising its right to choose their own political, economic and social systems.

As I stated last year on the same occasion, Iran has been a major victim of terrorism for the past 3 decades. Terrorist groups have killed, threatened, and abducted thousands of Iranian ordinary citizens including women and children and proceeded to plunder public and private properties. During the past two years, three eminent physicists, professor Alimohammadi, professor Shahriari, and Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan, were brutally assassinated by acts of terrorism organized by a terrorist group, who enjoys the generous hospitality of a western capital and the full collaboration of the Mossad.

It is highly expected from the international human rights bodies and organizations to unequivocally and resolutely condemn such terrorist activities which have been carried out

against Iranian scientists. Certainly, all these unlawful measures and state terrorism aimed at intimidation and putting pressure against our nation will not change its resolve and policy.

Madam President,

Iran's record on international human rights cooperation continues to be significant. On 17 and 18 of October 2011, third periodic report the Islamic Republic of Iran on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights was considered by the Human Rights Committee. Furthermore, in December 2010, Iran conducted a judicial colloquium together with the OHCHR in Tehran. Iran's cooperation within the Human Rights Council is far beyond documentation and it has the highest number of visits by the Special Mandate Holders in the region, six of whom visited the country since 2003. Additionally, Iran has invited the High Commissioner for Human Rights to visit the country and the preparatory delegation from the Office of the High Commissioner visited the country on 19 to 21 December 2011. Iran has also regularly and consistently responded to the communications from the Special Mandate Holders of the Human Rights Council.

Madam President,

Human rights are common heritage of humanity which have been initiated and developed by valuable contributions of all civilizations and cultures. Any abuse of the human rights for unjust political expediencies reduces this highly valued concept into an instrument for foreign policy. Exploitation of human rights, in particular, United Nations' human rights machinery will create an atmosphere of confrontation and polarization which would only erode the capacity of the Organization for the meaningful promotion and protection of human rights.

Now, the Human Rights Council is at a critical juncture to convincingly demonstrate its ability to address human rights

challenges and remove the atmosphere of mistrust which has been buffering the whole human rights system in the past several decades.

Through constructive interaction in this important forum, proper bases should be provided for perceiving the fact that human rights can be protected and promoted in a meaningful and effective manner, through genuine respect for diversity, national and regional particularities as well as historical and religious backgrounds, traditions and value systems.

Undoubtedly, promotion of human rights, along with individual state's efforts, requires collective commitments and willingness of all states to cooperate and to listen and learn from each other, and to respect diverse cultural heritages and traditions.

Madam President,

Gross and systematic violation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, which emanates from racist attitudes, remains a matter of deep concern for all. The tragic plight of the Palestinian people who have been suffering, for over six decades from occupation and the consequent deprivation of their most basic national and human rights is not alleviated. The depth and expanse of the gross and systematic violation of human rights of the Palestinian people by the Israelis in total blatant defiance of international law, numerous UN resolutions and human rights principles is more than known to the international community. What is perplexing is that they enjoy continuous and unflagging support of certain Western countries, to perpetrate its crimes and violations with impunity.

Against this backdrop, the international community should continue to be seized of the consideration of this issue till the end of the occupation and fulfill its responsibility towards the elimination of the suffering of the Palestinian people. In this regard, the Human Rights Council is one of the most pertinent fora where the plights of Palestinian people under the brutal occupation should be dealt with.

Before I conclude I would like to take this opportunity to draw the Council's attention to a tragic event taken place at the US base in Bagram, Afghanistan during which copies of the Holy Qur'an were burned by US soldiers. Undoubtedly, this deplorable act of incitement is a gross violation of human rights, hurting sentiments of Muslims worldwide. In line with its common efforts for promotion and protection of human rights, Council should take swift and decisive act to condemn this horrible act.

Madam President,

Finally, let me just underline that the Human Rights Council, entrusted with an historical and critical mandate for the actual promotion and protection of human rights on a global scale, can indeed rise to the challenge through relying on the cherished principles of objectivity, impartiality, transparency and consensus.

Convinced that the best approach to promote and protect human rights across the globe is to engage in a meaningful and sincere interaction and cooperation, we look forward to continuing our close cooperation with the Council and its members to realize our shared objectives of attaining greater global justice, equity and development through the enhancement of all human rights for all.

Thank you, Madam President.

