

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran A/HRC/28/70 para 97

Full recommendation:

The Special Rapporteur encourages the Government to consider ending its satellite jamming, given its impact on the health of its citizens and on the right to access to information. He also calls for the enhancement of policies that govern gender confirmation surgeries for transgender individuals to ensure the protection of the right to health of those who may consider such procedures.

Assessment drafted using Impact Iran's human rights indicators¹

A. Encourages the Government to consider ending its satellite jamming

The government of Iran has been jamming both foreign and domestic satellite signals since 2003. This measure is implemented with the aim of preventing access to independent news and unbiased information.² The practice of satellite jamming was highly prevalent during the 2009 protests around the re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. According to reports one of the techniques used by the government to jam satellites involves surface level jamming using trucks that roam residential neighborhoods, which is associated with a high health risk. Citizens of Shiraz in Fars staged a protest in 2017, calling attention to their exposure to harmful jamming signals and blaming the government for a number of health issues ranging from headaches to cancer. In the same year, Shiraz medical authorities estimated that local satellite jamming could cause up to 24,000 cases of cancer in the region in the next few years.³

B. Enhancement of policies that govern gender confirmation surgeries for transgender individuals to ensure the protection of the right to health

Human right organizations have reported on Iranian authorities' recurring practices regarding the use of a range of coercive medical procedures designed for LGBTI individuals of any age. These procedures include conversion or reparative therapies, hormone treatments and sex reassignment and sterilization surgeries.⁴ A *fatwa* by the then Supreme leader Ayatollah Khomeini in 1986 established the legal framework for diagnosing Trans people with what is called "Gender Identity Disorder." Though being Trans is not a crime in Iran, Trans people are forced to choose between being diagnosed with Gender Identity Disorder (GID), which leads to coerced gender

¹ CCPR.25.1.S.3; CCPR.26.1.P.1; CCPR.26.1.O.1; ESCR.12.2.4.S.1; ESCR.12.2.4.P.1; ESCR.12.2.3.P.4; ESCR.12.2.4.O.1

² <https://en.radiofarda.com/a/iran-satellite-jamming-health/29364815.html>

³ <https://spacewatch.global/2017/04/iranian-satellite-jamming-shiraz-cause-24000-cancer-cases-coming-years/>

⁴ 6RANG. Submission to the UN Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, March 2019.

reassignment surgeries or sterilization, and criminal prosecution and the possibility of arbitrary arrest. LGTI individuals who exhibit same-sex desires and/or gender non-conformity are often diagnosed with GID, and forced to undergo sexual reassignment surgeries or sterilization as well as other so-called “reparative” treatments without being given accurate information on the risks of such procedures. NGO sources have also documented the use of electric shock therapies, prescribing psychoactive medication, hypnosis, among other reparative therapies on gay and lesbian individuals, including underage adolescents.^{5 6}

Recommendation Status:

This recommendation has **NOT** been implemented.

⁵ 6Rang, Reparative Therapies on Gays and Lesbians through Cruel, Inhumane and Humiliating Treatments Has Increased in Iran, July 13, 2018, available at: <http://6rang.org/english/2422>

⁶ 6Rang, Submission to the third periodic review of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2015. Available at: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CRC/Shared%20Documents/IRN/INT_CRC_NGO_IRN_19808_E.pdf