

**Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran  
A/HRC/43/61 para 70(b)**

**Full recommendation:**

*The Special Rapporteur recommends that the Government, the judiciary and the parliament, as appropriate: Ensure that all detained individuals receive adequate health care, without discrimination on grounds of political or legal situation, ethnicity, religion, political opinion, gender, sexual orientation or other status;*

**Assessment using Impact Iran human rights indicators<sup>1</sup>**

Prison regulations of the Islamic Republic of Iran address the management and supervision of all prisons and detention centers in the country. These regulations also address the conditions in detention centers, such as the detainees' ability to access adequate food, water and medical care and receive visits and communications from family members. The regulations specify that all prisoners should be granted access to medical care, including regular medical check-ups, and that their medical needs should be addressed in the detention center to the fullest extent possible, unless transfer to treatment centers outside the prison is considered to be necessary.<sup>2 3</sup>

However, a significant number of human rights defenders, who are in a poor state of health, have been denied medical care and have been kept in detention; in a condition which can exacerbate their health issues. This suggests that medical attention in Iran is provided on a discriminatory basis, notably on the basis of political opinion. These include the situations of civil activists and human rights defenders Mr. Farhad Meysami,<sup>4 5</sup> Mr. Arash Sadeghi,<sup>6 7</sup> Mr. Soheil Arabi<sup>8 9</sup> and Ms. Narges Mohammadi.<sup>10</sup> Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council have sent numerous communications raising concerns about their health while in detention, including for other human rights defenders, such as Ms. Nasrin Sotoudeh. More recently the same body has

<sup>1</sup> CCPR.10.1.S.1

CCPR.10.3.P.2; CCPR.10.2.P.3

CCPR.10.1.O.2

<sup>2</sup> See more: Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, <https://iranhrdc.org/rights-disregarded-prisons-in-the-islamic-republic-of-iran/>

<sup>3</sup> See more: Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/MDE1341962016ENGLISH.PDF>

<sup>4</sup> United For Iran, <https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/prisoner/4599/>

<sup>5</sup> Special Procedures Communication sent to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 3 October 2018, UA IRN 12/2018, <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownLoadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=24120>

<sup>6</sup> United For Iran, <https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/prisoner/1931/>

<sup>7</sup> Special Procedures Communication sent to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 8 September 2020, UA IRN 21/2020, <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownLoadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=25522>

<sup>8</sup> United For Iran, <https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/prisoner/1917/>

<sup>9</sup> Front Line Defenders, <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/case/continued-detention-iranian-blogger-soheil-arabi-and-judicial-harassment-his-mother>

<sup>10</sup> United For Iran, <https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/prisoner/2340/>

communicated concerns for those in detention regarding the added health risks brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In its 2019 National Report to the Universal Periodic Review, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reported that the Citizenship Rights Watch Board carries out periodic inspections of prisons and detention centers. According to the Government, the body has “received and handled 3,275 complaints and reports, through the complaint system, in relation with civil rights violations. Between 2015 and 2018, a number of 28,504 inspections were carried out to prosecutors' offices, prisons and detention centers.”<sup>11</sup> There is no readily available information about the outcome of such inspections. Additionally, there is no official and available information as to the number of complaints, their nature and whether they have been adequately investigated and adjudicated in compliance with international standards. There is no readily available information that might suggest that custodial staff had been investigated for cases of denial of medical care for detainees.

Amnesty International<sup>12</sup> and Iran Human Rights Documentation Center<sup>13</sup> have documented cases where medical care in detention was denied or cases where medication was withheld seemingly as a form of punishment or for reasons based on discrimination, including political opinion, ethnicity, religion, and legal status. These cases notably included female political prisoners who faced additional discrimination when seeking medical care. More recently, OHCHR has documented numerous cases where protestors and human rights defenders were denied access to medical treatment.<sup>14</sup>

In light of the above, the Islamic Republic of Iran has not ensured that all detained individuals receive adequate health care, without discrimination on grounds of political or legal situation, ethnicity, religion, political opinion, gender, sexual orientation or other status.

#### Recommendation Status:

This recommendation has **NOT** been implemented.

---

<sup>11</sup> National Report, UPR 2019, Islamic Republic of Iran, <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/WG.6/34/IRN/1>

<sup>12</sup> Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/MDE1341962016ENGLISH.PDF>

<sup>13</sup> Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/MDE1341962016ENGLISH.PDF>

<sup>14</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, July 2020, <https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FHRC%2F43%2F61&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop>