

Concluding Observations Committee on the Rights of the Child CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4 para 84

Full recommendation:

The Committee recommends that the State party take active measures to officially recognize ethnic and linguistic minority groups and that it provides them with opportunities to learn, communicate and practise their language, art, culture and religion without any undue interference. It also urges the State party to ensure that reports of unlawful arrests, detention, imprisonments, killings, torture and executions targeted against members of minority groups, including children, are promptly investigated and the perpetrators are held accountable.

Assessment using Impact Iran human rights indicators¹

A. The Committee recommends that the State party take active measures to officially recognize ethnic and linguistic minority groups

Article 14 of the Constitution stipulates that the government and Muslims in Iran are “duty-bound to treat non-Muslims in conformity with ethical norms and the principles of Islamic justice and equity, and to respect their citizen rights”. Article 19 of the Constitution protects the equal rights of “ethnic group or tribe” regardless of “color, race, language, and the like”. Additionally, Article 20 of the Constitution states that “All citizens of the country, both men and women, equally enjoy the protection of the law and enjoy all human, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, in conformity with Islamic criteria”.²

However, Arabs, Azerbaijani Turks, Balochis and Kurds face targeted discrimination on the basis of their identity and are generally side-lined from general public services, including education and health care.

Ethnic minorities, especially Kurds and Balochis, are over-represented in death penalty statistics. 60 people were executed in the 4 provinces of West Azerbaijan, East Azerbaijan, Sistan and Baluchistan, and Kurdistan in 2020. This represents a 20%+ increase compared to 2019 and 2018, when 49 and 51 people were executed in the 4 provinces. The executions are also more likely to be carried out secretly: of the 60 executions confirmed by Iran Human Rights in those

¹ CRC.17.1.S.1.1; CRC.17.1.S.5.1; CRC.29.1.S.1; CRC.29.2.S.1; CRC.30.1.S.1; ESCR.15.1.1.P.3; ESCR.15.1.1.P.2; ESCR.15.1.1.P.4; CRC.17.1.P.6.2; CRC.29.1.P.1; CCPR.6.5.O.1; CRC.6.1.O.2; CRC.29.1.O.1; CRC.29.1.O.2; CRC.30.1.O.2; ESCR.15.1.1.O.3

² The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, English translation, <https://irandataportal.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/constitution-english-1368.pdf>

regions, only 13 (21%) were announced by authorities. In 2020, Roughly 79% of executions in these ethnic regions went unannounced by domestic media or officials in Iran.³

Article 15 of the Iranian Constitution⁴ establishes Persian as the only official language in the country but also provides that “the use of regional and tribal languages in the press and mass media, as well as for teaching of their literature in schools, is allowed in addition to Persian.” However, Article 15 effectively restricts the use of languages other than Persian to the press and mass media, and to literature in schools. The law does not guarantee that children belonging to linguistic minorities will have access to education in their mother tongue.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has not taken active measures to officially recognize ethnic and linguistic minority groups.

B. The Committee recommends that the State party provides ethnic and linguistic minority groups with opportunities to learn, communicate and practice their language, art, culture and religion without any undue interference

Even though people speak many languages in Iran, such as Persian (Farsi), Turkish, Kurdish, Arabic, Gilaki, Lori, Baluchi among other languages, the Islamic Republic of Iran only recognizes Persian (Farsi) as its official language.⁵

The Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran raised concerns about reports of Kurdish, Ahwazi Arab and Azerbaijani-Turk (or Azeri-Turk) lacking access to education in their mother tongues.^{6 7} These concerns were echoed by the U.N Secretary General,^{8 9 10} noting reports that indicate members of ethno-linguistic minorities, including the Azeri community as well as Arabs, were being denied the opportunity to teach their language in schools.¹¹ The struggle to access such languages in school may be attributed to the reported state-imposed ban on teaching Azeri-Turkish in school.¹² The Ministry of Education has

³ <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/4718/>

⁴ The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran:< <http://www.iranchamber.com/government/laws/constitution.php>>

⁵ The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran:< <http://www.iranchamber.com/government/laws/constitution.php>>

⁶ Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, January 2020, https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IR/Report_of_the_Special_Rapporteur_on_the_situation_of_human_rights_in_the_Islamic_Republic_of_IranA4361.pdf

⁷ See more : Association for the human rights of the Azerbaijani people in Iran, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CRC/Shared%20Documents/IRN/INT_CRC_NGO_IRN_19735_E.pdf

⁸ IRNA News, www.irna.ir/news/83404283/ (in Farsi).

⁹ Report of the U.N. Secretary General, January 2020, https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IR/Report_of_the_Secretary-General_on_the_situation_of_human_rights_in_the_Islamic_Republic_of_IranA4320.pdf

¹⁰ Report of the U.N. Secretary General, January 2020, https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IR/Report_of_the_Secretary-General_on_the_situation_of_human_rights_in_the_Islamic_Republic_of_IranA4320.pdf

¹¹ Report of the U.N. Secretary General, August 2019, <https://undocs.org/en/A/74/273>

¹² Center for Human Rights in Iran, <https://iranhumanrights.org/2019/03/irans-intelligence-ministry-slaps-azeri-rights-activist-with-new-charges-claim-hes-organizing-protests-from-prison/>

reportedly circulated reminders to teachers and school administrators that the use of Kurdish and Turkish languages inside public schools is forbidden.¹³ Furthermore, Kurdish language teachers have faced harassment and persecution.¹⁴ ¹⁵ Education in some minority languages, like Kurdish, is available only through private classes, reducing the accessibility and affordability of Kurdish education. Furthermore, private teachers are required to obtain a license from the state to teach Kurdish, which places an additional barrier to private practice.

In 2016, reportedly up to 40,000 Ahwazi Arab children were denied access to education for failing the Farsi language proficiency test, despite Farsi being their second language.¹⁶ In 2019, Rezvan Hakim Zadeh, deputy of the regime's elementary education department, announced that the health assessment plan for pre-school children will include an evaluation of children's level of proficiency and comprehension in Persian. Children who fail to pass the assessment will not be able to attend state kindergartens, which would severely limit access to pre-primary education for children from ethnic minorities, such as Ahwazi Arabs, Turks, Kurds and Balochis, who will be directed to an intensive training in the Farsi language.¹⁷ ¹⁸

The lack of access to mother tongue education in primary and secondary schools remains a major challenge in the Islamic Republic of Iran. This access at a young age is critical both to preserve minorities' distinct cultural identity, and to promote equality of opportunities. A lack of teaching in children's mother tongue has reportedly caused high school dropout and illiteracy rates, notably among Azeri¹⁹ and Ahwazi Arab children.²⁰

At the university level, the teaching in and of minority languages was non-existent until 2015. In August 2016, however, participants were able, for the first time, to choose Kurdish and Turkish languages as majors at the bachelor level.²¹ Yet, in practice, there has been no elementary, middle school or high school in either the public or private education systems in Iran teaching minority languages such as Turkish, Balochi or Kurdish. Consequently, opportunities for individuals who wish to access those majors are limited as the teaching of minority languages at school is inexistant. Reports documented a lawsuit against the Ministry of Education, initiated in March 2018, in which the Court of Administrative Justice, ruled in March 2020, that the state is

¹³ Minority Groups, <https://minorityrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Rights-Denied-Violations-against-ethnic-and-religious-minorities-in-Iran.pdf>

¹⁴ Joint submission to the Human Rights Committee from All Human Rights for All in Iran, Association for Human Rights in Kurdistan – Geneva, Association for the Human Rights of the Azerbaijani People in Iran, Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, OutRight International, Siamak Pourzand Foundation, Small Media, Impact Iran, 2020, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/IRN/INT_CCPR_NGO_IRN_42317_E.pdf

¹⁵ Radio Zamanah: < <https://www.radiozamanah.com/519191>>

¹⁶ UNPO, <https://unpo.org/article/19590>

¹⁷ ISNA News <https://www.isna.ir/news/99031005237/>

¹⁸ Dur Untash Studies Center, <https://www.dusc.org/en/drasat/3966/>

¹⁹ Association for the human rights of the Azerbaijani people in Iran, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CRC/Shared%20Documents/IRN/INT_CRC_NGO_IRN_19735_E.pdf

²⁰ Center for Human Rights in Iran, <https://www.iranhumanrights.org/2013/10/khuzestan-teachers/>

²¹ Radio Farda: <<https://www.radiofarda.com/a/t7-students-able-to-select-azari-and-kurdi-for-university/27919663.html>>

required to produce and prepare textbooks for teaching literature in ethnic languages until the end of secondary school in Iranian schools.²² It is not clear whether the Ministry of Education has decided to appeal the ruling or whether it will be implemented.²³

Further, ethnic and linguistic minorities face additional restrictions and intersectional discrimination due to their ethnicity and religion. Indeed, many elements of Iran's domestic legal framework discriminate between *Shia* Muslims, Muslim and non-Muslim minorities, including recognized minorities.²⁴ The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran names the Twelver *Ja'fari* School of Shia Islam as the state religion. Only Muslim minorities (including Sunnis), Zoroastrian, Jewish and Christian Iranians are recognized under the Constitution.²⁵ Although Article 19 of the Constitution protects the equal rights of "ethnic group or tribe" regardless of "color, race, language, and the like" it omits an explicit provision recognizing religion or belief as a protected characteristic against discrimination.²⁶ Because there are no laws safeguarding the right of religious minorities to worship, maintain places of worship or assemble, the structural exclusion of other religious minorities leaves them without legal protection to manifest and practice their religion or belief,²⁷ effectively putting these communities, including children, at greater risk of discrimination, violence and persecution.^{28 29}

Additionally, while Article 14 of the Constitution states that the government and Muslims are "duty-bound to treat non-Muslims in conformity with ethical norms and the principles of Islamic justice and equity, and to respect their human rights."³⁰, it adds that "This principle applies to all who refrain from engaging in conspiracy or activity against Islam and the Islamic Republic of

²² Tasnim News Agency: < <https://tn.ai/2229748> >

²³ Following an electoral promise of President Rouhani during his 2013 election campaign, the government announced in 2015 that a university program on Kurdish language and literature would be introduced at the University of Kurdistan in Sanandaj, which has been implemented now. A similar program for "Azerbaijani Turkish language" was also announced for 2016 by the government, which is now launched.²³ The government also announced in 2015 that Baluchi language courses would be introduced at the university of Sistan & Baluchistan, which has not been implemented yet. See: University of Kurdistan <<https://uok.ac.ir/fa/faculties/literature/departments/kurdish.aspx>> Tasnim News Agency: <<https://tn.ai/1670519>> Daneshjoo News Agency: <<https://snn.ir/001kvb>>

²⁴ Joint submission to the Human Rights Committee from All Human Rights for All in Iran, Association for Human Rights in Kurdistan – Geneva, Association for the Human Rights of the Azerbaijani People in Iran, Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, OutRight International, Siamak Pourzand Foundation, Small Media, Impact Iran, 2020, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/IRN/INT_CCPR_NGO_IRN_42317_E.pdf

²⁵ Articles 12 and 13 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, English translation, <https://irandataportal.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/constitution-english-1368.pdf>

²⁶ The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, English translation, <https://irandataportal.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/constitution-english-1368.pdf>

²⁷ The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, General Principles (Chapter I, Articles 1, 2 and 12):< <http://www.iranchamber.com/government/laws/constitution.php>>

²⁸ Joint submission to the Human Rights Committee from All Human Rights for All in Iran, Association for Human Rights in Kurdistan – Geneva, Association for the Human Rights of the Azerbaijani People in Iran, Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, OutRight International, Siamak Pourzand Foundation, Small Media, Impact Iran, 2020, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/IRN/INT_CCPR_NGO_IRN_42317_E.pdf

²⁹ Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 18 July 2019, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N19/222/62/PDF/N1922262.pdf?OpenElement>

³⁰ The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, General Principles (Chapter I, Article 14):< <http://www.iranchamber.com/government/laws/constitution.php> >

Iran”³¹, a charge that is often levelled against individuals from linguistic and ethnic minorities when peacefully practicing their religion or other activities.³² This exclusion and the condition of “conformity” with the Islamic criteria allows for legal discrimination and persecution against religious minorities, as well as the members of linguistic and ethnic groups, including children.³³

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Members of the Baloch minority, estimated to be between 2 and 3 million,³⁶ speak the Baluchi language, with a majority being Sunni Muslim. Arabs in Iran represent up to 5 million individuals in Iran,³⁷ a significant minority being Sunni Muslim. Similarly, Kurds, estimated between 8 and 10 million³⁸ have a majority Sunni Muslim and include a minority Yarsanis.³⁹ As a consequence, these communities face intersectional discrimination, based on their ethnicity and language as well as religion.

In 2016, the Iranian High Council for Human Rights issued a booklet entitled “Some measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran on demands of ethnic groups, religious minorities and sects”.⁴⁰ The same year, President Hassan Rouhani issued a Charter on Citizens’ Rights, a government-endorsed declaration providing guidance for the implementation of the principles, norms and laws stipulated in the Constitution.⁴¹ In 2019, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, noting that measures have been taken to improve the situation of minorities, said that they “do not alter the fundamentally discriminatory nature of the Constitution, legislation and Islamic Penal Code of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in particular in relation to the country’s unrecognised minority communities.”⁴²

³¹ The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, General Principles (Chapter I, Article 14):<

<http://www.iranchamber.com/government/laws/constitution.php>>

³² Joint submission to the Human Rights Committee from All Human Rights for All in Iran, Association for Human Rights in Kurdistan – Geneva, Association for the Human Rights of the Azerbaijani People in Iran, Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, OutRight International, Siamak Pourzand Foundation, Small Media, Impact Iran, 2020,

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/IRN/INT_CCPR_NGO_IRN_42317_E.pdf

³³ Joint submission to the Human Rights Committee from All Human Rights for All in Iran, Association for Human Rights in Kurdistan – Geneva, Association for the Human Rights of the Azerbaijani People in Iran, Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, OutRight International, Siamak Pourzand Foundation, Small Media, Impact Iran, 2020,

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/IRN/INT_CCPR_NGO_IRN_42317_E.pdf

³⁴ Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, January 2020,

https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IR/Report_of_the_Special_Rapporteur_on_the_situation_of_human_rights_in_the_Islamic_Republic_of_IranA4361.pdf

³⁵ Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 18 July 2019,

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N19/222/62/PDF/N1922262.pdf?OpenElement>

³⁶ Taheri, A., The Baloch in Post Islamic Revolution Iran: A Political Study, University of Pune 2012, p. 24.

³⁷ Human Rights Watch, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/04/29/iran-sweeping-arrests-ahwazi-arab-activists>

³⁸ UNPO, <https://unpo.org/members/7882>

³⁹ Minority Rights Group, <https://minorityrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Rights-Denied-Violations-against-ethnic-and-religious-minorities-in-Iran.pdf>

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Islamic Republic of Iran, 27 December 2019,

<https://undocs.org/A/HRC/43/12>

⁴² Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 18 July 2019,

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N19/222/62/PDF/N1922262.pdf?OpenElement>

The Islamic Republic of Iran has not provided ethnic and linguistic minority groups with opportunities to learn, communicate and practice their language, art, culture and religion without any undue interference.

C. The Committee also urges the State party to ensure that reports of unlawful arrests, detention, imprisonments, killings, torture and executions targeted against members of minority groups, including children, are promptly investigated and the perpetrators are held accountable.

The authorities frequently resort to provisions under the Islamic Penal restricting the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association^{43 44} in order to intimidate, arrest and prosecute individuals who peacefully exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly including journalists and media workers, trade unionists, and lawyers.^{45 46 47 48} NGOs have reported a pattern of these violations disproportionality targeting members of minority or marginalized groups attempting to exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.^{49 50 51 52 53 54} For example, non-Persian speakers face arrests and

⁴³ Articles 262, 286, 498, 500, 513, 610, 639, 700, Islamic Penal Code (2013), English translation, Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, <https://iranhrdc.org/english-translation-of-books-i-ii-of-the-new-islamic-penal-code/> and <https://iranhrdc.org/islamic-penal-code-of-the-islamic-republic-of-iran-book-five/>

⁴⁴ See more: ARTICLE 19, Small Media, Human Rights Activists in Iran, Impact Iran, Human Rights Committee, 129th session (Geneva) 29 June – 24 July 2020, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/IRN/INT_CCPR_ICS_IRN_42315_E.pdf

⁴⁵ See more : ARTICLE 19, Small Media, Human Rights Activists in Iran, Impact Iran, Human Rights Committee, 129th session (Geneva) 29 June – 24 July 2020, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/IRN/INT_CCPR_ICS_IRN_42315_E.pdf

⁴⁶ See more: Iran Human Rights, <https://www.iranhr.net/en/reports/23/>

⁴⁷ See more: Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, <https://iranhrdc.org/controlled-and-pursued-labor-activism-in-contemporary-iran/>

⁴⁸ See more: Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort, <https://www.ecpm.org/wp-content/uploads/Rapport-iran-2020-gb-070420-WEB.pdf>

⁴⁹ See more: Association for the human rights of the Azerbaijani people in Iran, <http://www.ahraz.org/association-for-the-human-rights-of-the-azerbaijani-people-in-iran-ahrazs-repot-regarding-the-current-situation-of-the-azerbaijani-arrestees-that-are-arrested-during-the-recent-protests-nove/>

⁵⁰ See more: Kurdistan Human Rights Geneva, <https://kmmk-ge.org/sd/annual-report-2020/>

⁵¹ See more: United For Iran, <https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/prisoner/>

⁵² Center for Human Rights in Iran, <https://iranhumanrights.org/2020/10/more-bahais-begin-serving-prison-sentences-in-iran-simply-for-their-beliefs/>

⁵³ See more: Joint submission to the Human Rights Committee from All Human Rights for All in Iran, Association for Human Rights in Kurdistan – Geneva, Association for the Human Rights of the Azerbaijani People in Iran, Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, OutRight International, Siamak Pourzand Foundation, Small Media, Impact Iran, 2020, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/IRN/INT_CCPR_NGO_IRN_42317_E.pdf

⁵⁴ “Iran arrests 29 linked to protests against compulsory hijab laws”, New York Times, 2 February 2018. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/02/world/middleeast/iran-hijab-protests-arrests.html>

prosecution for advocating for education and cultural activities carried in minority languages.^{55 56}

In 2018, prison data shows that at least three quarters of Iran's political prisoners are from ethnic minorities.⁵⁸ Ethnic minorities, especially Kurds and Balochis, are over-represented in death penalty statistics. Many of the offenses carrying the death penalty, in particular drug-related offenses and national security offenses, are among the charges most commonly used to target and convict minorities. Impoverished and marginalized minorities have been over-represented among those executed for drug offenses. Additionally, Kurdish political prisoners charged with national security offences represent almost half of the total number of political prisoners. Overall, half of those executed for affiliation with a political party or a banned group between 2010 and 2018 were Kurds, while a quarter were Balochis and over one-tenth Arabs. Reportedly, 22 Ahwazi men were executed in secret in 2018.⁵⁹ Executions targeting members of ethnic minorities continue, notably against Kurdish dissidents.⁶⁰ Between mid-December 2020 and early February 2021, at least 21 Balochi prisoners have been executed in Iran.⁶¹

Iranian security agencies often carry out crackdowns on peaceful protestors or events organized by minority groups, in some cases injuring or killing participants.⁶² In the context of the 2019 November protests, reports have documented human rights violations carried out by Iranian authorities disproportionately targeting members of ethnic minorities, in some cases including children.^{63 64} As of January 2021, the Iranian authorities have not conducted independent and impartial investigations into human rights violations performed during and in the aftermath of the 2019 November protests and have not held perpetrators among Iranian authorities accountable. Such instances may well indicate that the Islamic Republic of Iran does not engage in prompt investigations into the illegal actions of its law enforcement and security forces and do not hold systematically perpetrators accountable.

⁵⁵ For more, see , The Association of Human Rights in Kurdistan-Geneva's (KMMK-G) : <<https://kmmk-ge.org/sd/>> and Association for the Human Rights of the Azerbaijani people in Iran (AHRAZ): <<https://t.me/AhrazHumanRights>>

⁵⁶ <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/4620/>

⁵⁷ <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/4503/>

⁵⁸ Minority Groups, <https://minorityrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Rights-Denied-Violations-against-ethnic-and-religious-minorities-in-Iran.pdf>

⁵⁹ Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/11/iran-fears-mounting-for-detained-ahwazi-arabs-amid-reports-of-secret-executions/>

⁶⁰ Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/07/iran-two-kurds-executed-amid-increasing-use-of-death-penalty-as-weapon-of-repression/>

⁶¹ OHCHR News, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26716&LangID=E>

⁶² See these reports: HRANA <<https://www.en-hrana.org/workers-of-hepco-were-battered-and-arrested-after-a-severe-police-attack>> <<https://www.en-hrana.org/mandatory-hijab-fateme-mohammadi-was-arrested-after-being-harassed>> <<https://www.en-hrana.org/many-arrested-16-killed-end-5th-day-protests-iran>>

and Human Rights Watch <<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/iran>>

⁶³ Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/MDE1328912020ENGLISH.PDF>

⁶⁴ Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, July 2020, <https://undocs.org/A/75/213>

Though there are instances where allegations of abusive behaviour by authorities may be investigated by various state mechanisms, including Inspectors of the Prison Organization or the Judiciary Information Protection Organization, there is no information available on such investigations leading to any sort of disciplinary action or prosecution against the alleged perpetrators.⁶⁵ On the contrary, high-level cases of torture allegations brought by prisoners against prison authorities to these state mechanisms have often resulted in the conviction of the alleged victim for “propaganda against the regime”.⁶⁶

Additionally, despite the existence of several mechanisms that ostensibly accept complaints regarding violations of citizens' rights, such as the Article 90 Commission of the parliament (established under Article 90 of the Constitution, offering a mechanism to citizens to file complaint against any of the three branches of power) and the Oversight Bodies for the exercise of Citizenship Rights in the country's provincial courts, there is no evidence to suggest that complaints to these bodies are independently reviewed and investigated.^{67 68} There is no National Human Rights Institution in Iran or an independent mechanism able to take complaints from children. Additionally, as the aforementioned restrictions on otherwise protected activities under international law are enshrined into Iranian law, opportunities to seek justice are particularly limited.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has not ensured that reports of unlawful arrests, detention, imprisonments, killings, torture and executions targeted against members of minority groups, including children, are promptly investigated and the perpetrators are held accountable.

Recommendation Status:

This recommendation has **NOT** been implemented.

⁶⁵ See for example: Iran Human Rights: < <https://iranhr.net/fa/tag/829/> >

⁶⁶ Iran International report on Esmail Bakhshi, a labor activists, who claim to be subject of torture in detention: < <https://iranintl.com/en/iran/vaezi-regime-has-right-sue-esmail-bakhshi-torture-claims> >

⁶⁷ Joint submission to the Human Rights Committee from All Human Rights for All in Iran, Association for Human Rights in Kurdistan – Geneva, Association for the Human Rights of the Azerbaijani People in Iran, Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, OutRight International, Siamak Pourzand Foundation, Small Media, Impact Iran, 2020, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/IRN/INT_CCPR_NGO_IRN_42317_E.pdf

⁶⁸ Joint submission to the Human Rights Committee, Abdorrahman Center, Iran Human Rights Documentation Center (IHRDC), Impact Iran and Human Rights Activists in Iran, 2020, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCCPR%2fICS%2fIRN%2f42313&Lang=en