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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Women's Human Rights International Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 September 2014]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Last year, Hassan Rouhani took office as the new President of the Iranian government with many promises. One year later people in cities and villages of Iran feel no change and the foremost indicator for Rouhani's record is human rights.

During his first year in office, there have been at least 900 executions, include at least 24 women, 38 political prisoners, and 15 persons who were juveniles at the time of crime. At least 54 of these executions were carried out in public.

The trend of intensification of violation of human rights in the past year is evident in all realms. Under Rouhani, members of the organized opposition, PMOI, were attacked in Camp Ashraf; 52 of them were massacred and seven taken hostage. Four months later those in Camp Liberty were subject to a rocket attack which killed four and left dozens injured. Inside Iran, anyone who supports this organization would be charged with enmity against God and be executed.

During his election campaign, Hassan Rouhani promised an improvement in the situation of ethnic and religious minorities and yet of the 38 political prisoners hanged in the first year of Rouhani's Presidency, twenty-four were Baluchi activists, eight were Ahvazi Arabs, and five were Kurds.

In the first week of January 2014, the international Open Doors Organization declared that in terms of the harassment of Christians, Iran is amongst the top ten countries in the world.

Reporters Without Borders in its annual report on December 18, 2013 announced that 42 reporters or journalists have been arrested since the election of Rouhani and 12 publications have been shut down. Iran is among the top five states that have imprisoned the journalists.

It also has the highest number of women journalists imprisoned and has been described by the Committee to Protect Journalists as one of the worst overall suppressors of journalists.

The only conclusion one can draw from these facts is that pinning hope on anyone from within this clerical state to bring about an improvement in human rights situation is a mirage. This will not happen.

Therefore, the international community must take a more serious action in this regards. The United Nations has much more of an obligation than just verbal or written condemnations. Iran's human rights dossier must be taken to the UN Security Council and Iran's current rulers must be held accountable for their crimes against humanity that are is still going on.