

25th Session of the Human Rights Council
Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the
Islamic Republic of Iran, 17 March 2014
Intervention by the Czech Republic

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

The Czech Republic supports the statement made on behalf of the EU. We would like to thank you for your latest report, including the summary of cases submitted to you.

We appreciate the recent attempts of the Iranian government to engage with the international community. Nevertheless we also expect that verbal pledges will be consequently translated into action in order not to exhaust their initial power. To establish the cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran and thus allow him to receive the authentic information from credible sources would be highly valued.

The Czech Republic took note of the announced release of around 80 prisoners of conscience. However we are deeply concerned by the reports about the hundreds of persons who remain in some form of confinement, including the human rights defenders, political activists, lawyers, journalists and bloggers, religious practitioners as well as student activists. As the most alarming we consider the numerous cases of arbitrary detention of individuals for peacefully exercising their fundamental rights and freedoms. We urge the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to release all political prisoners and develop policies preventing the detentions of people on arbitrary basis.

In this context we have been informed several times that families and friends of detained people are often subjects of various harassment on the grounds of their proximity to the detained person. Mr. Special Rapporteur, would you please elaborate more on the practical measures to be taken by the Iranian authorities to prevent such practices?

The Czech Republic fully shares your opinion, Mr. Special Rapporteur, that much needs to be done in the area of judiciary, including the independence of judges and safeguards for a fair trial. We are also seriously disconcerted by reported intimidations of lawyers for carrying out their professional responsibilities. Hand in hand with these shortcomings goes the inaccurate, practical application of principles and norms enacted in both International Covenants as well as the national constitution. We deeply regret that Islamic Republic of Iran, although well normatively equipped, often fails in fulfillment of its international legal obligations.

Mr. Special Rapporteur, the Czech Republic is interested in your ideas regarding to what concrete steps must be done to ensure the independence of judges and their compliance with the above mentioned norms.

Mr. Special Rapporteur, we would like to wish you all the best in your further endeavors.

Thank you.