20th Session Human Rights Council
GD Item 2

Sudwind would like to congratulate Madame Pillay on her appointment for a second term and appreciates the efforts of the OHCHR to accord high priority to the establishment and strengthening of NHRIs in accordance with Paris Principles and hopes that more NHRIs fulfill the requirements and will be qualified with the “A” status.
As Madam High commissioner stated today, the OHCHR provided advice and assistance on the strengthening and the establishment of NHRIs in many countries. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran has not been one of them.
At the UPR process on Iran, the Islamic Republic accepted the recommendations of Poland; Paragraph 90/10 to establish a national human rights institute in full compliance with the Paris Principles.
After 2.5 years down the line we wonder if the country has moved closer towards this issue and furthermore, whether the Islamic Republic of Iran has sought any assistance from the OHCHR to carry out its obligation?
The council is aware that since UPR Process, the Islamic Republic of Iran invited High commissioner, Madam Pillay to visit the country. We would like to know whether the proper arrangement has been made as required for such visit?
As Madam Pillay mentioned, approximately one-quarter of the UN member states still carry the death penalty in their countries. She has reported as well that her office is tasked to convene a new UN network on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.
In this regard we would like to draw the attention of Council and Madam High Commissioner on the situation of 5 Iranian Arabs in particular, who have been arrested after unrests in Khuzestan province on April 2011 and were months later charged for killing a law enforcement official. The families of the accused have said that they have confessed to murder under torture and other ill treatments. The 5 accused are the 3 brothers Abdolrahman, Taha and Jamshid Heydari who were arrested along with their cousin Mansur Heydari and Amir Moavi.
Mohammad Sadigh Kaboudvand a Kurdish Human rights activist, has been sentenced to 10.5 years imprisonment and since 23 days has been on hunger strike because he has not been allowed to visit his gravely ill son.
Madame Pillay, human rights violations in Iran find new dimensions each and every day. We would like to draw your and the council’s attention to those in particular and those in general which transcend the boundaries of race, ethnicity and gender.