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Speaker: Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam

Item 6 (adoption of outcome of UPR of Iran or General Debate)

March 19 or 20, 2015

Mr. (Vice) President,

The Advocates for Human Rights and Iran Human Rights serve on the Steering Committee of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty. We note that the situation of the death penalty in Iran is alarming. Iran Human Rights reports that more than 753 people were executed in 2014 – averaging more than two executions each day. 53 were executed publicly in front of terrified citizens, including children. Most of those executed were convicted of charges such as drug-related offences – not the “most serious” crimes. Several peaceful activists were executed after convictions on vague charges such as “Corruption on earth.” Capital cases include reports of torture, forced confessions, and lack of access to counsel.

Moreover, Iranian authorities continue to execute juveniles and juvenile offenders. In 2014, at least 14 juvenile offenders were executed. Hassan Gholami was only 14 years old when he was charged with murder, and was executed at age 21. Jannat Mir, an Afghan boy, was 15 years old when he was executed last year for drug-related charges.

The execution trend continues in 2015. So far this year, Iran Human Rights reports more than 202 executions.

In the second round of Iran’s UPR, 39 states made recommendations on the death penalty. The Iranian government didn’t accept any of those recommendations, providing no explanation whatsoever.

The situation of the death penalty in Iran requires the Council’s sustained attention. We urge the Council to renew the mandate of the Special rapporteur and to encourage the Iranian authorities to cooperate with him. We also urge the 39 countries with recommendations on the death penalty to monitor the issue closely and to follow up and ask the Iranian government to elaborate on the reasons for Iran’s continued violation of human rights in the context of the death penalty.

[We call on the Iranian authorities to reconsider Iran’s position on the UPR recommendations concerning the death penalty.]

Thank you.