



**UNITED NATIONS INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL FACT-FINDING MISSION
ON THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

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Advance summary of the report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran to the 58th session of the UN Human Rights Council, March 2025¹

The report includes consolidated findings from the mission’s two years of investigations, including additional information and evidence related to the facts and circumstances in the context of the protests, including on the use of force, treatment in detention and impunity. This includes further investigations into the treatment of children, LGBTQ+ persons and ethnic and religious minorities during the protests. The mission also investigated protester deaths, dismissed by the State as “suicides”, and the wide use of “mock executions” as a form of psychological torture during detention. The body of evidence collected and preserved, which consists of over 38,000 evidence items and interviews with 281 victims and witnesses and forms a substantial evidentiary base underlying the mission’s findings of gross human rights violations and crimes against humanity committed in the context of the protests in Iran that started on 16 September 2022, following the death of Jina Mahsa Amini in the custody of the “morality police”.

With respect to the ongoing repression in the aftermath of the protests, the mission found that two and a half years after the protests began, women and girls continue to face systematic discrimination, in law and in practice, that permeates all aspects of their lives, particularly with respect to the enforcement of the mandatory *hijab*. Despite pre-election assurances by the new President, Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian to ease strict enforcement of mandatory *hijab* laws, State authorities continued to enact new measures that suppress women and girls’ demands for rights, and continued repression against those expressing solidarity with the “Woman, Life, Freedom” movement. This includes increased policing and criminal prosecution against women defying the mandatory *hijab*, plans to enact a “Hijab and Chastity” Law, enhanced surveillance to monitor compliance, and the eradication of women’s rights initiatives. The mission found that these developments reflect the State’s persistent, ongoing persecutory conduct aimed at suppressing women and girls’ rights to equality.

The mission found that this persecutory conduct extended to victims and their families who have been systematically suppressed to remain silent, as well as to those who have acted in solidarity, such as human rights defenders, lawyers, teachers, trade unionists and journalists, forcing many to leave Iran. Against this backdrop, the State intensified surveillance, restricted digital space even further and extended its repression beyond Iran’s borders, to silence those who speak up both inside the country and from abroad. Judicial harassment of victims and their families continued. Together, these actions demonstrate the concerted State effort to stifle dissent, perpetuating a climate of fear and systematic impunity that denies victims the rights to truth, justice, accountability and reparations.

¹ Scheduled for release on 14 March 2025. The mission has decided to release this advance summary, pending the completion of its full review of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran’s comments to its draft report. Information contained in this summary already reflects relevant factual information received from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. To support accountability efforts for victims, the mission will also publish an accompanying conference room paper (A/HRC/58/CRP.1) containing detailed analysis of its findings, including a roadmap for accountability, truth, justice, equality, reparations and other measures to ensure effective redress for victims and survivors, to be released on 18 March 2025.

Ten men have been executed so far, and at least 11 men and 3 women remain at imminent risk of being sentenced to death or executed in the context of the protests. In a disturbing development, the death penalty against women activists and women human rights defenders has sharply escalated, particularly following their convictions for national security offenses, including in relation to their activism.

With respect to accountability, the mission found that while there have been some efforts to provide accountability and compensation to victims of the protests, domestic avenues for redress remain inadequate, with continued State denial of responsibility for gross human rights violations, some of which the mission found amounted to crimes against humanity. The mission found that obstacles to obtaining justice in Iran persist, including pervasive, continuous intimidation and threats against those seeking accountability in the judicial system, which fundamentally lacks independence. The mission's investigations, including through direct exchanges with the President-appointed "Special Committee to Investigate the 2022 unrest" also reaffirmed that redress and reparations to victims, remained inadequate.

The mission therefore found that it is imperative that comprehensive accountability measures continue to be pursued in Iran, despite the obstacles identified by the mission, and in their absence, outside the country, in accordance with the expectations of many victims and survivors. The mission has prepared a roadmap for justice and accountability that the international community and other stakeholders may consider in this collective endeavour, including proposals for prosecutions, legal reforms, and assistance to victims and survivors, including through the provision of humanitarian visas and the establishment of a victims' fund.

In this respect, the mission deepened its investigations into the responsibility of State entities and officials for gross human rights violations and crimes, including the roles, structures, and responsibilities of the IRGC, the Basij, the Ministry of Intelligence, the Ministry of Interior, the police (FARAJA), including its special forces, and the "morality police", the provincial governors, as well as the Judiciary. The findings in relation to the related four areas of investigation, namely the use of force, detention, the judicial system and the mandatory *hijab* enforcement, are detailed in the mission's forthcoming conference room paper (A/HRC/58/CRP.1).

The mission concludes that, considering the gravity of its findings with respect to the commission of gross human rights violations and crimes against humanity, coupled with the risk of recurrence of violence against those who continue to express dissent or challenge the State and its policies, make it essential for the Human Rights Council to continue to be strongly seized of the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The mission further found that the human rights concerns in Iran are extensive and complex and transcend both the temporal and material scope of the mandate entrusted to it by the Human Rights Council. The mission therefore suggests that upon completion of the FFM Iran's mandate the Council, consider mandating an independent body to follow-up on the mission's work. Such a body should continue to investigate allegations of serious human rights violations and crimes against humanity in Iran, both past and ongoing, the root causes of such violations and crimes, including structural and systemic discrimination against women, men and children, including on grounds of gender, ethnicity and/or religion and/or political beliefs; monitor and follow up on domestic and international accountability; continue investigation of the responsibility of alleged perpetrators both State entities and individuals, by documenting, verifying, consolidating and preserving evidence for legal proceedings. The independent body should have an explicit mandate to cooperate with judicial authorities that comply with international human rights standards, and with other legal or quasi-judicial bodies engaged in the protection of victims' rights, in close consultation with victims, survivors, civil society, UN human rights mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran and other relevant stakeholders.

The mission will launch its report to the Human Rights Council's 58th session at a press conference scheduled to take place at 14.00 on 14 March 2025 at Palais des Nations.