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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Thirty-eighth session

Item 12 of the draft provisional agenda */

Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities

Thirty-fourth session

Item 6 of the agenda

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD
WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND
OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Note verbale dated 14 September 1981 from the Permanent Mission of
the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office and the
other international organizations at Geneva addressed
to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Office of the United Nations and other international organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and, further to its note No. 442/1/678 of 10 June 1981, and in connection with the work of the thirty-fourth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, concerning human rights, has the honour to inform it, on instructions from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as follows:

The human rights and fundamental freedoms of the individual are enshrined in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including, in particular, articles 13, 14 and 23.

Article 13 provides that "Zoroastrian, Jewish and Christian Iranians shall be the sole recognized religious minorities which shall be free, within the limits of the law, to perform their religious rites and to act, as far as their personal status and religious teachings are concerned, according to their liturgy".

According to article 14, "In conforming to the holy verse of the Koran, 'the Almighty never forbids you to act kindly and fairly towards those who do not war against you on account of your religion, and do not expel you from your homeland. God loves the just'. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Muslims shall act with Islamic morality, justice and equity towards non-Muslims and respect their human rights. This principle shall be valid for those who do not engage in any activities or plot against Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran."

*/ E/1981/25, chapter XXVI.

Under article 23, "The control of opinions shall be prohibited and no one may be attacked or censured for his opinions".

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran is authorized to quote statements made by two of the highest authorities of the Islamic Republic.

According to Ayatollah Moussavi Ardebili, President of the Supreme Court of the Islamic Republic of Iran, "The courts of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the procedures which they apply are governed by Islamic standards and laws, as well as the Constitution and the country's official laws and regulations. Under those same laws, no one is to be molested, prosecuted or persecuted on account of his religious beliefs. Anyone who is brought to trial is to be judged by the lawful judicial bodies regardless of his faith and shall be entitled to all the facilities he needs for his defence. In no circumstances may he be denied those rights".

According to Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, "The rights of non-Muslim Iranians are protected in the same way as those of Muslim Iranians and the law does not tolerate any discrimination towards them. If non-Muslim Iranians are brought to trial before the judicial bodies, it is in no way because of their faith, but solely on account of the acts of which they are accused. It goes without saying that an Iranian Baha'i who has been the subject of a judicial measure may not be absolved from responsibility for an indictable offence merely by virtue of belonging to the Baha'i sect. It should be noted that there are numerous Iranian Baha'is living in complete security in Iran, with nothing whatsoever to fear. The only ones who are prosecuted and sentenced are those who have been involved in acts of espionage and other activities contrary to the higher interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Mention may also be made of the propaganda campaign mounted by the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran to discredit the Islamic Revolution. But all that in no way tallies with the true facts and is therefore totally unfounded."