

7. Access to the building and security measures

Parliament's department for Protocol and Conferences, and its Security Services, have been requested to take the necessary steps to control access to the building and to make arrangements to ensure the smooth functioning of the hearing.

1. Date and place of hearing

As agreed at the Political Affairs Committee on 19-21 June 1985, at the proposal of the Subcommittee on Human Rights, the hearing on 'Respect for human rights in Iran' is to take place during the full day of 28 November 1985 (9.00 a.m. - 12.30 and 3.00 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.) at 97-113 rue Belliard. There will be preparatory meetings of the Political Affairs Committee and of the Human Rights Subcommittee during the afternoon of 27 November. (It was envisaged that if the Iranian Government were to accept an invitation to participate, they might prefer to do so separately from the other participants, and could, thus, make their presentation on the afternoon of 27 November.)

2. List of participants

The specialists and witnesses invited to address the hearing are listed in Annex II of this document. The list was drawn up by the Subcommittee on the basis of a mandate from the Political Affairs Committee, and is designed to cover the following subjects, deemed to be of primary importance by the Subcommittee:

- The situation of religious and ethnic minorities
- Torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, and the use of the death penalty
- The situation of women in Iran
- Conscription of children to fight on the Iran-Iraq warfront.

3. 'Public' nature of the hearing

As is the usual practice with the committee's public hearings, Parliament's Director General for Information will advise the Brussels press corps that they are free to attend. The Brussels diplomatic corps will also be permitted to send observers. Interested NGOs and human rights organisations also will be able to be present. (A formal decision as to whether Iranian politicians in exile should be present remains to be taken by the Political Committee. Certain of these exiled groups have expressed an interest in attending the hearing.)

4. Allocation of time

In view of the number of experts invited (see Annex II), clearly it will be necessary to adhere to a rather strict timetable. It is envisaged that each subject would be introduced by a principal spokesman/spokeswoman with a presentation lasting some 15-20 minutes. In some instances, it is envisaged that 'joint-presentations' could be made (for instance, an 'expert' together with a 'witness'), in which case the presentation might last some 20-25 minutes.

Provided that the timetable can be adhered to, it should be possible to allow some 45-50 minutes for 'question and answer' with Members.

For questions it is envisaged that the same procedure would apply as at the quarterly colloquies: Members wishing to put questions will ask their names to be listed by the Secretariat, and will then be called to speak, at the appropriate time by the President. Members are asked to limit the length of their questions to one minute at the most. Questions will be taken in groups of three, after which the 'expert' or 'witness' will be invited to reply.

5. Documentation in dossiers

Each 'expert' has been invited, if he so wishes, to submit written material in advance which is relevant to the subject which he will address. Provided that, as requested, this material is received in good time, it will be available in the original language in Members' dossiers. It is understood that a number of NGOs and other specialist bodies might also submit material, which also would be available in the room, provided that it is relevant. (The 'Human Rights Unit' of the Directorate General for Research and Documentation has agreed to screen and coordinate distribution of this additional material.)

6. Publicity

The Director General for Information and Public Relations has been requested to alert the Brussels press corps, and to seek to ensure that maximum publicity is given to this event.

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PUBLIC HEARING OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
ON RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN

Wednesday 27 November 1985 afternoon
Thursday 28 November 1985 morning and afternoon
97-113 rue Belliard
1010 BRUSSELS
Tel. (02) 234.21.11

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME¹

Wednesday 27 November 1985 afternoon²

Preparatory meetings of the Political Affairs Committee and/or the Subcommittee on Human Rights; and, possibly, presentation by a representative of the Iranian Government.

Thursday 28 November 1985: 9.00 - 12.30 and 3.00 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.

Opening of the hearing by the chairman of the Political Affairs Committee, Mr Roberto Formigoni, who will co-chair the hearing with Mrs Ien van den Heuvel, chairman of the Subcommittee on Human Rights.

Introduction

(comparing pre-Shah and post-Shah Iran, putting the Khomeini revolution in the context of the Islamic world, and in particular, describing Iran's ethnic and religious composition, and its treatment of minorities)

Mr Peter Avery of King's College, Cambridge

Situation of minority groups

A spokesman of the Bahá'i International Community, accompanied by one or more 'witnesses' who have personal experience of human rights abuses in Iran

¹ Members will be advised of any changes to this programme

² Exact timings yet to be determined

Death penalty, torture, inhuman
and degrading treatment

Mr Karim Lahidji, Paris-based lawyer, who practised law in Iran under both the Shah and during the early part of the Khomeini regime

Maitre Christian Rostoker, French lawyer and Deputy Secretary General of the Fédération Internationale des Droits de l'Homme who has published reports on the human rights situation in Iran in 1984 following a fact-finding mission to that country

The situation of women

Frau Dr Schahnaz-Alami, Berlin-based expert on Iran who has published widely on this topic.

It is envisaged that a witness, with direct personal experience of the current situation of women in Iran (possibly from the Movement of Iranian Women in Frankfurt) also will address this topic

Conscription of children

Joint presentation by Mr Michel Rod, Director of Terre des Hommes, Lausanne, and Mr Per Tegmo of Défense des Enfants Internationale. (These organisations, which specialise in childrens' welfare, have visited prison camps in Iraq and Iran and reported on conscription of children for the war effort.)