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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE CONTINUES EXAMINATION OF REPORT OF IRAN

The Human Rights Committee this afternoon continued consideration of the report of Iran, hearing further comments and questions by the members intended to obtain clarification on what Iran has done to ensure respect for rights guaranteed for the individual under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Committee began consideration of this report this morning (see Press Release HR/1220 of today).

Walter TARNOPOLSKY (Canada), first speaker this afternoon, said he too appreciated the difficulties Iran had gone through, and welcomed the statement by the Iranian representative that his country would submit a more detailed report later.

In his questions, he asked whether it was possible to provide in Iran's more detailed report some information on the right to self-determination of minorities in Iran. What constitutional provisions were made to guarantee respect for the rights of the minorities?

On discrimination, he asked whether women had equal rights with men? Specifically, did women have the same civil and political rights? Were there women judges? Were there women in the legal professions, in the police forces? Were there any restrictions on the way women dressed? and were they free to participate in the public life of the country?

It would appear that the Baha'i community had no standing in the Constitution or law of Iran. If this were so, it would be in contradiction to Article 16 of the Covenant which provided that everyone had the right to be recognized as a person before the law. The Baha'i community consisted of some 300,000 people, and further information on their plight would be appreciated.

On the special tribunals, he asked what was the relationship between these courts and the revolutionary guards? What exactly did they deal with? What was their relationship with the ordinary police and ordinary courts of justice?

(more)

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