

Ambassador Alireza Yousefi

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the enforcement of a compulsory dress code for women mandates, a violent crackdown on peaceful protesters as well as discrimination towards religious minorities.

Worrying reports have reached me about the untimely death of Mahsa Amini after being forested into custody at Vozara detention center this September. For the innocent reason that parts of her hair were showing from underneath the head scarf. The violent treatment leading to the death of Miss Amini is deeply unsettling and an immensely disproportionate punishment with no legal reasoning.

In addition, tenfold of Iranians has lost their life protesting the injustice of the incident. Security forces has met peaceful protesters with excessive force and violence. It is the constitutional right of the people of Iran to voice their opinion and outrage publicly without fear of their life and well-being.

Please let me also bring to your attention a related issue, concerning the rights of religious and belief minorities in Iran, such as Bahais and Christians. Article 23 of the Iranian constitution states the individual's right not to be «molested or taken to task for holding a certain belief». The Bahai community are facing deep hardship and discrimination from the state, solely for peacefully holding their religious conviction, a religion which the government of Iran has yet to officially recognize. This is a profound problem, as it makes it impossible for Bahai citizens of Iran to apply for higher education. Denying a person their right to higher education on the grounds of their religious conviction is a clear violation of Iran's constitution, including Article 23.

Your Excellency, I am convinced that the highest priority of the Iranian government is to ensure the rights and safety of all its citizens, regardless of gender, religious affiliation, or social status. I thus humbly petition you to use your honorable mandate to intervene, ensuring that:

- Iranian women's rights be respected and protected by the state, including their right to dress according to their own choice and conviction. The Guidance Patrol be dissolved and the law making hijabs mandatory for women be terminated.
- The right to peaceful assembly and protest is respected, and protesters protected. Security forces that have been found using excessive force against protesters be held accountable.
- Iran's religious minorities, such as Bahais and Christians be officially recognized and have their full constitutional rights protected and expressed in law and practice by the state, including the right to higher education and to freely practice their religion or belief of choice without fear of government intervention.

Sincerely,