



25<sup>th</sup> session of the  
Human Rights Council  
Item4

**SR on Iran ID**  
**Delivered by Abbas Hakimzadeh**

Thank you Mr. President

I am reading this statement on behalf of Human Rights Watch, CIVICUS in coordination with the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center)

Esteemed Members of this Council, My name is Abbas Hakimzadeh. I was a student of computer science at Tehran's Polytechnic University. Between 2007 and 2009, I was banned from enrollment for 3 years, and arrested 3 times for my student activities like running a publication on campus that addressed human rights and democracy. I spent months in solitary confinement. I was tortured by my interrogators to coerce a false confession that I was connected to a terrorist group.

I was eventually released, but forced to flee my country. My friends however are still in prison. Bahareh Hedayat , Zia Nabavi, Majid Tavakoli, and Majid Dorri are serving collective sentences of 35 years in prison. Just last month, another one of us – Maryam Shafi'pour – was sentenced to seven years.

We are not alone. Hundreds of political prisoners remain imprisoned in Iran today. Their freedom has been taken from them solely because of what they believe, their choice of profession, and lifestyle.

Despite pledges by President Rouhani, who was in part elected to improve the human rights situation in the country. Iranians continue to face serious rights abuses perpetrated by their government. Today, Iran's judiciary is systematically putting people to death in increased numbers, many of them in the absence of fair trials.

Newspapers continue to be shut down and journalists, bloggers and editors arrested and sentenced to prison for their peaceful activities. And women, religious and ethnic minorities continue to suffer from discrimination in law and practice.

We ask this Council to work even harder to urge our Government to respect our rights. We urge this Council to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, a mandate that belongs first and foremost to the Iranian people.

Thank you