

The statement made by the Islamic Republic of Iran

On the seventh session

Forum on minority issue

25-26 November 2014

Mr. Chairman

In responses to some of the references made by certain groups to my government, my delegation would like to make the following points:

Based on Article 19 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran “the people of Iran from any ethnicity or tribe have equal rights, and the color of their skin, race, language and so forth will not give them any advantages. Also Article 20 clearly stipulates that, all the people of the nation whether they are men or women are protected equally by the law, and they can enjoy all human, political, social and cultural rights with the observation of Islamic principles.”

Mr. Chairman

Iranian society is a multiethnic society with ancient assortment of cultures and religions. In this regard, my delegation would like to emphasize the high and effective position of ethnic groups in all national decision-makings, including in the parliament, leading national and religious institutions and Assembly of Experts. Furthermore, one of the new established mechanisms in the promotion and protection of minority rights is the appointment of the President’s special assistant for ethnic groups and religious minorities which to act under his direct supervision, in 2013.

Mr. Chairman

Islamic Republic of Iran has frequently notified international bodies about terrorist and criminal activities in the western regions of the country and wishes to repeat its persistence on severing connections between violent criminal and terrorist activities and those attributed to ethnic groups. It is regrettable that the terrorists who have committed murder, killed innocent people, exploded public places, including oil and gas pipelines, planning to assassinate political figures such as the President, carried weapons and explosives, taken people hostage is named as Arab, Baluch or Kurd "activists".

Mr. Chairman

Like many other countries, social activities in the form of parties, societies or associations, are conditioned on respecting the rules and regulations pertaining to the activities of political and non-political parties, societies and associations as well as guild unions, Islamic associations or religious minorities.

Finally, the chapter three of the Constitution, titled "The Rights of the Nation", reiterates on the legitimate freedoms of the Iranian nation, such as the freedom of expression and legal demonstrations and assemblies, such freedoms are should be exercised in a way that not violate the principles of independence, freedom, national unity, Islamic teachings and the foundation of the Islamic Republic.

I thank you