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United Nations Human Rights Council: 14<sup>th</sup> Session  
Joint Oral Intervention: Item 6- UPR- Iran  
CIVICUS and Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies  
10 June, 2010

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Thank you Mr. President,

On June 8, Iran provided their responses to the recommendations it was given during its Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Some of the recommendations provided were rejected outright including the "end to severe restrictions on the rights to free expression, association and assembly" and the "end to the detention and trails of writers solely for the practice of their right to freedom of expression."

The situation of Human Rights Defenders in Iran is one of the worst in the world. For example, last month Iranian officials secretly executed teacher and trade unionist Farzad Kamangar, along with four other political prisoners at Evin Prison in Tehran. Mr. Kamangar was subjected to physical and psychological torture, denied access to a lawyer, family and food, confined to a small cell with no fresh air. In February 2008, in a sham trial that lasted less than five minutes he was sentenced to death.

Kamangar's case exemplifies the massive human rights violations in Iran: arbitrary arrests of political dissidents, the denial of basic rights while in detention, secretive trial proceedings and summary execution. Today, many human rights defenders are in jail, including, Emad Baghi, Bahareh Hedayat, Milad Asadi, and Shiva Nazarahari.

Freedom of expression in Iran is also severely limited in Iran. Journalists, editors and reporters that have published unfavorable views on the Iranian government are regularly imprisoned. Since the 2009 elections, more than 170 journalists have been arrested. Last week prominent female journalist, Zhila Baniyagoub, was sentenced to one year in prison and suspended from journalism for 30 years. Another prominent female journalist, Hangameh Shahidi is serving a six year prison sentence.

Similarly, there are substantial restrictions to the freedom of association and assembly. Civil society organizations that advocate freedom of speech and the advancement of human rights often experience pressure to curtail their work and restrictions that render them illegal. In the last seven months 9 political prisoners have been executed.

CIVICUS, CIHRS and Iranian human rights defenders urgently call upon the Human Rights Council to take decisive actions and steps to stop the gross violations of human rights within Iran. Iran must be held accountable.

Thank you Mr. President