

Submission for Iran's Universal Periodic Review in the Human Rights Council in 2014
Submitting organization: The Institute for Social Justice (ISJ) Pakistan

Introduction

The Institute for Social Justice (ISJ) submits this brief report to the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights for Iran's Universal Periodic Report 2014. This submission is mainly concerned about communities affected by Iranian authorities' unending shelling, firings and mortars on communities in border areas of Pakistan. It shows concerns about Iranian authorities' atrocities committed against innocent people mainly women and children living in border areas of Balochistan, Pakistan and violation of international borders, and also discriminatory policies towards other religious groups in Iran.

Pak-Iran border violations by Iranian Border forces

On 4th December 2013, Iranian border guards fired four mortar shells at Mashkail town in Washuk district during the early hours of Wednesday. No loss of life was reported. However, big explosions caused panic amongst women and children.¹ On March 2012, in result of indiscriminate firing of Iranian border guards, two women were killed who along with others were peacefully protesting and demanding their fundamental rights in Sabaaz region of Iranian occupied Balochistan. Besides, one woman and two children are seriously injured.²

On 22 August 2009, Iranian forces fired over 50 rockets into the bordering town of Mashkail which resulted deaths of three women and injured two men. There were also reported damages to a hospital and several houses. 50 rockets created panic in the area. The continued attacks and shelling have badly affected children and women, who usually live a feared life and keep waiting for the sudden shells coming from Iranian border guards.³

On 17th November 2013, Iranian forces fired so many mortars in Mashkel area of the remote Washuk district of Balochistan, Pakistan.⁴

These are a few reported cases of firings and shelling by Iranian border guards, however, the local people Mashkail town in Washuk district shared that it is routine violation by Iran which has caused panic amongst people of Balochistan in border areas. Women and children always live under the shadow of fear. There has been huge loss of cattle and property.⁵

Recommendations

Iran should stop violating Pakistan-Iran border and give exemplary punishments to border forces that have killed and injured innocent women and children in Pakistani areas, and also has become cause of destruction and damages to property of people of Balochistan-Pakistan.

Iran should also pay compensation to families who have lost their lives, property and valuables due to continuous shelling and firing by Iranian border guards.

Violation of fundamental rights in Iran

¹Baloch S. (2013), Border Violation: Iran Fires four mortars shells into Pakistan; in Express Tribune

²<http://baluchsarmachar.wordpress.com/2012/03/02/iranian-security-forces-indiscriminate-firing-at-baloch-womens-protest-rally-two-killed/>

³<http://www.ostomaan.org/articles/news-and-views/3616>

⁴<http://www.dawn.com/news/1056867/iranian-shells-land-in-balochistan>

⁵ The Balochistan Point (2014) at <http://thebalochistanpoint.com/np-leader-condemns-border-violation-by-iranian-forces/>

Due to strict policies of Iran, local people do not have access to basic rights and including right to share and communicate. Iranian regime's behavior towards Baloch people living in Iran is extremely brutal because Baloch people want their fundamental rights.⁶

Iran has discriminatory policies and laws towards Sunnis in the country and it does not allow Sunnis to practice their faith freely as is to their Shia counterpart. There are about 9 percent Sunnis in Iran; majority of them are not allowed to worship in their mosques.⁷

Recommendations

Iran should provide fundamental rights to people of Pakistani origin in Iran. There should not be any restriction on communication and access to sources of knowledge and information.

Iran should allow local media to report cases of atrocities committed by the Iran's armed forces with minority groups.

Human trafficking

Every year hundreds of innocent children, women mainly persons with disabilities are abducted from poor areas of Pakistan and transported to Iran where these children and person with disabilities are forced to beg in front of mosques and shrines. Pakistan and Iran have extremely poor systems and mechanisms to prevent human trafficking and transportation of Pakistani citizens to Iranian cities. There are hundreds of persons with disabilities including children living in custody of traffickers in Iran.⁸

Recommendation

Iran should make proper border security arrangement so that human traffickers should not be able to cross Pakistan Iran border.

Iran should not detain and sentence children, persons with disabilities who become victims of trafficking, rather should immediately send them back to Pakistan.

Human trafficking network operating from Iran should be arrested and handed over to Pakistani authorities.

Pakistani juveniles in Iran

In 2010, Mohammad Asif son of Abdul Rasheed Brohi was reported detained in an Iranian prison. Asif was detained on charges of involvement in narcotics. Asif was exploited by his relatives. His mother travelled to Iran to see him but Iranian authorities did not allow her to meet with her son.⁹ Asif is still reported to be in Iranian jail. In addition, hundreds of Pakistani prisoners are languishing in Iranian prisons and are not provided timely counselor access.¹⁰

Recommendation

Iran should immediately release juvenile (Asif) on humanitarian grounds, and also release many other Pakistani detained in minor cases in Iran.

⁶<http://balucharmachar.wordpress.com/2012/03/02/iranian-security-forces-indiscriminate-firing-at-baloch-womens-protest-rally-two-killed/>

⁷ Human Rights Watch at <http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/11/09/iran-lift-restrictions-sunni-worship>

⁸ Dahrejo, S. (2011), PAKISTAN: Situation analysis on trafficking of persons with disability for forced begging at <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/forwarded-news/AHRC-FAT-011-2011>

⁹ <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO1111/S00741/pakistan-the-issue-of-foreigner-juveniles-must-be-solved.htm>

¹⁰ Khan, T. (2013), 7,912 Pakistani languishing in foreign countries' jails at <http://www.newspakistan.pk/2013/09/10/7912-pakistani-languishing-foreign-countries-jails/>