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UPR Turkmenistan

Regretfully, once again, as it was five years ago during the adoption of the second cycle of the UPR, the response of Turkmenistan to the recommendations of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review was only available in Russian, which made it difficult for many NGOs to follow them.

We urged Turkmenistan five years ago to provide their border forces with the necessary trainings so that they are able to prevent the incidents such as the killing of Iranian fishermen on the sea. Unfortunately, in recent years, we have been constantly witnessing such deadly events, and in the latest incident in March, two more fishermen were killed by direct firing of border officials. These killings must be stopped.

We share the concerns of environmentalists that the new legal status of Caspian Sea if approved by the parliaments will increase the competitiveness of the littoral states, including Turkmenistan to use the resources of this water body for short term profit and in contradiction with the sustainable development goals.

Human rights defenders and activists of Iranian civil society and environmentalists, in particular, are seriously concerned about the ratification of the Caspian Sea Legal Convention, which has been signed without consultation with independent Iranian experts. It is worrisome that this legal convention is signed by a pseudo elected government and might be approved by parliament which is not elected in a democratic way.