

05.09. 2024

Statement from Professor Javaid Rehman

1. I am greatly honoured to have served as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (13 July 2018–31 July 2024). For 6 years, in full compliance with the code of conduct, I have acted in an independent capacity, completely impartially, professionally and free from any politicizations.
2. Through-out my time as the Special Rapporteur, I served the people of Iran with great integrity and absolute commitment and played an important role in highlighting and reporting human rights violations in the country. On their part, the Iranian authorities not only refused me entry into the country (breaching the terms of the UN Human Rights Council Resolutions establishing my mandate) they hurled all forms of personal abuse and unsubstantiated allegations including bias, political corruption, receiving bribes and illicit payment to discredit me and undermine the independence of my work.
3. For 6 years, I have worked on the UN mandate on a completely unpaid basis. Fully, in accordance with the code of conduct, I have never accepted any funding from any individual, organisation or State for my work as the Special Rapporteur including for the writing and completion of the "[atrocities crimes](#)" report published in July 2024 (See disclosure of external support 2019–2024 documents available with OHCHR).
4. I completely reject the false and fabricated accusations that I received any form of honorarium, conference fee or speaker fee for participation in the conference on 24 August 2024 in Paris. There have been false allegations against me that I have received funding to attend this meeting based on various allegations that high-profile persons have been paid to attend such events. It is shocking that those making such allegations have so little regard for my integrity and reputation, merely for participating in a conference that was directly relevant to my report the "atrocities crimes".
5. I attended this event in my capacity as a former UN Special Rapporteur to participate in a conference which focused on my report on "atrocities crimes". (please see attached conference programme: the conference title was 36th Anniversary of the 1988 Massacre Iran: Accountability for Atrocities Crimes).
6. Please also see the list of speakers which confirms that some of the leading and most eminent lawyers, jurists and independent experts made presentations at this event. It was important for me to attend this meeting, to present my findings and to have a meeting with victims and their families some of whom I had interviewed. During the completion of the "atrocities crimes" report, I took evidence from victims and their families and friends and attended many meetings and participated in several events which included victims from all political, ethnic and religious backgrounds.
7. As the Special Rapporteur, I have met all relevant individuals and stakeholders from all backgrounds and having these meetings did not reflect my own personal endorsement of specific viewpoints. Importantly, victims of human rights violations are victims regardless of their religious, ethnic and political background and their gender.

8. The “atrocities crimes” report highlights crimes that were committed by the authorities inter alia against religious minorities – in particular the Bahá’ís – sexual violence and abuse of women and execution of children, the mass summary, arbitrary and extra-judicial executions, the 1988 Massacre and the continuing crime of enforced disappearances of thousands of political dissidents. The report seeks justice and accountability for the tens of thousands of victims and asks the international community to establish an international investigative and accountability mechanism. [Iran: ‘Atrocities crimes’ must be investigated and perpetrators prosecuted, says Special Rapporteur | OHCHR](#)
9. The term “President-elect of the NCRI” is the exact title provided to me in the conference agenda (Please see the attached conference programme: highlighted). This issue has been completely misinterpreted by the Islamic Republic of Iran and its sympathisers to suggest words or terms that I did not use in my statement. My position as the Special Rapporteur has always been (and shall always be) fully in accordance with the United Nations and international law and I do not take responsibility for any other interpretation inside and outside of Iran.
10. I must alert the international community, that through this smear campaign against me, the Iranian authorities (and their sympathisers) are attempting to escape and avoid accountability for their crimes.
11. I urge the international community to focus on the findings and recommendations of this report and to ensure justice and accountability for the victims of “atrocities crimes” and bring an end to the continuing impunity in Iran.
12. For my part, I shall take legal action against individuals or organisations (including from members within the government of Iran) who continue with a smear campaign to damage my reputation or propagate false and completely unsubstantiated allegations against me.
13. Finally, it is important to note that from 1 August 2024, after having completed my UN mandate, I am no longer the Special Rapporteur. In my capacity as a private individual, I am not answerable to anyone. I would ask that my privacy is no longer invaded and demand that there is no further intrusion in my private and professional life.

I thank you!

Javid Rehman PhD, FHEA, FRSA, FAcSS, Advocate.

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Conference Agenda
36th Anniversary of the 1988 Massacre
Iran: Accountability for Atrocity Crimes
24 August 2024

15:00 Guests visit the exhibition, meet the survivors and families of the victims of the 1988 massacre

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the NCRI

Opening remarks by the moderator - **Azadeh Zabeti**

Video Clip: Ashraf -3 Museum

Dr. Chile Eboe-Osuji, President of the International Criminal Court (ICC) (2018-2021); former Legal Advisor to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Prof. Leila Nadya Sadat, Special Adviser on Crimes Against Humanity to the ICC Prosecutor (2012-2023); Professor of International Criminal Law, Washington University Law School

Prof. William A. Schabas, Chair of the UN Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict (2014-2015); President of the International Association of Genocide Scholars (2009-2011)

Video Clip: State of human rights in Iran

Kenneth Lewis, Lawyer for the PMOI in the Swedish trial of Hamid Noury

Prof. Javaid Rehman, Former UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (2018-2024)

Testimonies of 1988 Massacre Witnesses

Tahar Boumedra, President of JVMI; former Head of the UN Human Rights Office in Iraq

Amb. Lincoln P. Bloomfield Jr., US Assistant Secretary of State for Political Military Affairs (2001-2005)

Herta Däubler-Gmelin, Federal Minister of Justice of Germany (1998-2002)

Dr. Mark Ellis, Executive Director, International Bar Association (IBA); former Chair of the UN Advisory Panel on Matters Relating to Defence Counsel of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals

Video Clip: Witnesses from Iran

Clément N. Voule, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association (2018-2024)

Shabnam Madadzadeh, Ex-political prisoner, presenting Maryam Akbari-Monfared's Case

Prof. Jeremy Sarkin, Chair-Rapporteur and Member of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) (2008-2014)

Judge Wolfgang Schomburg, Judge, UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) (2001-2008); former Judge, UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR); Judge, Federal Supreme Court of Germany (1995–2000)

Families of the Martyrs

Dr. Solomon Passy, President of the UN Security Council (2002 and 2003); former Chairman-in-Office, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE); former Foreign Minister of Bulgaria

Gilles Paruelle, Lawyer and former president of Val d'Oise Province Bar Association, Lawyer, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)

Steven Schneebaum, Adjunct Prof., School of Advanced International Studies, The John Hopkins University

Prof. Claudio Grossman, Special Adviser to the ICC Prosecutor (2021-present); Member, UN International Law Commission (ILC) (2016-present); President, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) (1996, 2001); Chair, UN Committee against Torture (CAT) (4 terms, from 2008 - 2015)