



Human Rights  
Institute

Organization: Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada  
Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur  
on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment  
or punishment  
Date: 14 March 2023  
Speaker: Paria Saremi

## Oral Statement to the 52nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council from Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada (LRWC) and the International Bar Association Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI)

### China and Iran: Halt torture and ill-treatment

Mr. President,

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada and the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute welcome the Special Rapporteur's report.<sup>1</sup>

Alarming reports of torture and ill-treatment by authorities in **Iran** include beating,<sup>2</sup> maiming,<sup>3</sup> sexual assault,<sup>4</sup> extrajudicial killing<sup>5</sup> and public execution<sup>6</sup> of women and men for their involvement in peaceful protest. Lawyers, defenders, ethnic and religious minorities, and peaceful protestors have also been subjected to fabricated charges, arbitrary arrest and detention, denial of access to lawyers of their choice, and fair trials.<sup>7</sup>

Also of grave concern is **China's** systematic use of Residential Surveillance at a Designated Location (RSDL) to arbitrarily detain human rights defenders, including lawyers. RSDL involves incommunicado detention in unknown locations without access to family or lawyers, and thus constitutes enforced disappearance,<sup>8</sup> itself a form of torture.<sup>9</sup> We are alarmed by reported torture in RSDL by means of lengthy confinement in a tiger chair and other ill-treatment.<sup>10</sup>

What measures does the Special Rapporteur suggest to assist States such as Iran and China to end their systematic practices of torture and ill-treatment and to assist them to implement the best practices set out in her report?

Thank you.

---

<sup>1</sup> Human Rights Council, Good practices in national criminalization, investigation, prosecution and sentencing for offences of torture. Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment\*

A/HRC/52/30, available at:

[https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session52/A\\_HRC\\_52\\_30\\_AdvanceUneditedVersion.docx](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session52/A_HRC_52_30_AdvanceUneditedVersion.docx) .

---

<sup>2</sup> Amnesty International, Iran: Quash death sentences of young protesters subjected to gruesome torture, 27 January 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/01/iran-quash-death-sentences-of-young-protesters-subjected-to-gruesome-torture/>; Center for Human Rights in Iran, Iran: Families of Detained and Killed Protesters Beaten, Threatened to Stay Silent, 25 January 2023, <https://iranhumanrights.org/2023/01/iran-families-of-detained-and-killed-protesters-beaten-threatened-to-stay-silent/>.

<sup>3</sup> Iran: Scores Blinded as Security Forces Aim Guns at Protesters' Eyes. Center for Human Rights in Iran, 22 February 2023, <https://iranhumanrights.org/2023/02/iran-scores-blinded-as-security-forces-aim-guns-at-protesters-eyes/>.

<sup>4</sup> OHCHR, Iran: Crackdown on peaceful protests since death of Jina Mahsa Amini needs independent international investigation, say UN experts, 26 October 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/10/iran-crackdown-peaceful-protests-death-jina-mahsa-amini-needs-independent>; Center for Human Rights In Iran, 2 March 2023, <https://iranhumanrights.org/2023/03/i-will-testify-about-sexual-assault-against-iranian-protesters-says-political-prisoner-in-iran/>.

<sup>5</sup> Human Rights Watch, Iran: 'Bloody Friday' Crackdown This Year's Deadliest, 22 December 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/12/22/iran-bloody-friday-crackdown-years-deadliest>.

<sup>6</sup> Iran: Public execution of Majidreza Rahnavaard exposes authorities' revenge killings, Amnesty International, 12 December 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/12/iran-public-execution-of-majidreza-rahnavaard-exposes-authorities-revenge-killings/>.

<sup>7</sup> Iran: Tortured protesters sentenced to death, Amnesty International, 27 January 2023, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6390/2023/en/>; How Iran used a network of secret torture centers to crush an uprising, CNN, 21 February 2023, <https://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2023/02/middleeast/iran-torture-jails-black-sites-mahsa-amini-protests-cmd-intl/>.

<sup>8</sup> OHCHR, China: UN experts gravely concerned by enforced disappearance of three human rights defenders, 23 March 2020, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2020/03/china-un-experts-gravely-concerned-enforced-disappearance-three-human-rights>.

OHCHR, Mandates of several Special Procedures including the WGAD, the WGEID... the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, OL CHN 15/201824 August 2018, <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=23997>; UN Commission on Human Rights, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, A56/156, 3 July 2001, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/446206>.

<sup>10</sup> Joint Statement on Chinese authorities placing Human Rights Lawyer Chang Weiping under 'residential surveillance, China Human Rights Lawyers Concern Group (CHRLCG), Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), German Bar Association (DAV), International Services for Human Rights (ISHR), Lawyers for Lawyers, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada (LRWC), available at: <https://www.lrwc.org/china-chinese-authorities-placing-human-rights-lawyer-chang-weiping-under-residential-surveillance-joint-statement/>, Ding Jiaxi story: an illustrated example of how RSDL works in China, ISHR, 23 March 2022, available at: <https://ishr.ch/defenders-toolbox/resources/ding-jiaxi-story-an-illustrated-example-of-how-rsdl-works-in-china/>