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.¹

Alarming reports of torture and ill-treatment by authorities in Iran include beating,² maiming,³ sexual assault,⁴ extrajudicial killing⁵ and public execution⁶ 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.⁷

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,⁸ itself a form of torture.⁹ We are alarmed by reported torture in RSDL by means of lengthy confinement in a tiger chair and other ill-treatment.¹⁰

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.


97; UN Commission on Human Rights, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, A/56/15/201824 August 2018, https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownLoadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=239