

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations



The Law Society
of England and Wales



Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

Item: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on independence of judges and lawyers

Date: 25 June 2026

Speaker: Paria Saremi

Oral Statement to the 62nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council from Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada (LRWC), Lawyers for Lawyers, The Law Society, and the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI), NGOs in special consultative status with endorsement by Centre for Supporters of Human Rights (CSHR), NGO without consultative status

Iran: Escalating attacks on lawyers defending human rights

Mr. President,

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, Lawyers for Lawyers, The Law Society, and the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, endorsed by the Centre for Supporters of Human Rights, are gravely concerned by escalating attacks against lawyers in the Islamic Republic of Iran.¹

For years, Iran has systematically persecuted lawyers to obstruct the defence of human rights.² Since nationwide protests in December 2025, access to independent counsel has been severely restricted, especially in security cases. At least 24 human rights lawyers have been detained, while more than 30 face or have received heavy sentences.³ Authorities misuse legal provisions and court-appointed lawyers to sideline trusted counsel, accelerate convictions, and facilitate death sentences without proper case review. Lawyers continue to face arbitrary arrest, persecution, torture, prolonged pre-trial detention, unfair trials, and imprisonment for their professional work. Recent cases include Mahmood Taravat-Rui, Nazanin Salari, and Mas'oud Ahmadian, sentenced to three years' imprisonment each and Abolfazl Ranjbari, sentenced to 22 years after one year's pre-trial detention on grave security charges.⁴

We urge this Council to call for immediate release of all arbitrarily detained lawyers and to demand unhindered access to medical care and contact with families and lawyers.

Thank you.

¹ E.g. Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, AL IRN 10/2025, 3 July 2025, IRN 10/2025, <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=30129>; JAL

24 Feb 2026, IRN 2/2026,

<https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=30790>.

² Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI), “Iran Intensifies Assault on Independent Lawyers Amid Expanding Post-War Crackdown,” 18 June 2026: <https://iranhumanrights.org/2026/06/iran-intensifies-assault-on-independent-lawyers-amid-expanding-post-war-crackdown/>

³ Ibid, CHRI; OIAD–CSHR Joint Statement on Lawyers in Iran, February, 2026, https://protect-lawyers.org/wp-content/uploads/UPDATED-2026_2_OIAD-CSHR-Joint-statement-Lawyers-Iran.pdf; Hengaw and HRANA documentation (*infra*, note 4).

⁴ Alireza Farzaneh Jajroomi, HRANA, <https://www.hra-news.org/2026/hranews/a-0bb2cedf/>. Amir Bahadorifar, Hengaw, <https://hengaw.net/fa/news/2026/02/article-35>. Mohsen Darginezhad (also transliterated “Masoud Darginnejad”), HRANA, <https://www.hra-news.org/2026/hranews/a-0bb2cedf/>; CHRI, *supra* note 2; OIAD–CSHR, *supra* note 3.