



63rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council

Item 4: Interactive dialogue on the report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran

21 September 2026

Joint oral statement

Mr President,

The Law Society of England and Wales, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute and Lawyers for Lawyers thank the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran for its essential work.

We are gravely concerned by the increasing persecution of lawyers in Iran this year.

Dozens of lawyers have been detained, prosecuted or convicted because of their professional duties, with many lawyers arrested without warrants, held in prolonged pre-trial and incommunicado detention, subjected to solitary confinement, ill-treatment and denial of medical care.

Women lawyers face additional discrimination, while lawyers forced into exile and their families remain exposed to intimidation and retaliation.

Dismantling independent legal defence removes a fundamental safeguard against coerced confessions, torture, unfair trials and arbitrary execution.

The persecution of lawyers denies access to justice and leaves protesters, human rights defenders and others targeted by the State without effective protection of their rights.

We urge this Council to demand the immediate release of all lawyers detained for their professional work, the quashing of related convictions and disbarment orders, and an end to reprisals against lawyers and their families.

We further call on Council members to support the Fact-Finding Mission in urgently investigating violations against lawyers, and to insist that everyone deprived of liberty has confidential access to independent counsel of their own choosing from the moment of arrest.

Thank you.

This statement was delivered by:

Tríona Lenihan, International Policy Adviser for Rule of Law and Human Rights,

The Law Society. triona.lenihan@lawsociety.org.uk