

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland
Statement

Universal Periodic Review - Iran
October 2014

Thank you Mr President,

The UK opposes the death penalty in all circumstances and is deeply concerned by the sharp increase in executions in Iran over the past year. We note with concern continued widespread discrimination against minority religious groups, particularly the Baha'is and Christians, and the reported harassment, interrogation and detention of journalists and human rights defenders. We remain concerned by prison conditions and the treatment of detainees in Iran, including reports of prolonged periods of solitary confinement, forced confessions, and physical abuse.

We have two recommendations:

1. That Iran issues an immediate moratorium on the use of death penalty for juveniles and for crimes that do not meet the most serious crimes standards under international law.
2. That Iran allows all prisoners access to legal counsel during all phases of pre-trial detention and the investigative stages of cases, and allows for legal counsel to advise the accused during these proceedings.

Ambassador Mark Matthews