

78

Check against delivery

*20th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group, 27 October - 7 November 2014*

*Statement by H. E. Mr. Rytis Paulauskas,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Lithuania  
at the review of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 31 October 2014*

Mr. President,

Lithuania welcomes the esteemed delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and thanks for the informative National Report.

While noting some commendable steps taken by the Government in the area of human rights over the past year such as the release of high-profile political prisoners and the drafting of a Citizens' Rights Charter, Lithuania remains concerned by the systematic violations of the rights to life, to freedoms of expression, association, assembly, belief and religion, and to non-discrimination.

Lithuania would like to make the following recommendations to Iran:

- 1) to unconditionally release all persons detained solely for peaceful political activities; to inquire all cases of alleged torture in detention facilities and to bring those responsible to justice;
- 2) to establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to abolition and in the meantime to immediately remove all provisions from the Juvenile Crimes Investigation Act which are in breach of international human rights law and to commute all death sentences for persons under the age of 18;
- 3) to end discrimination in law and practice against all religious and ethnic minorities, including Baha'i community;
- 4) to revise Islamic Penal Code repealing provisions that are discriminatory against women and girls, to take urgent legislative steps to specifically criminalize domestic violence, including marital rape; to adopt laws and policies that promote the participation of women in public, political, economic and professional life,
- 5) to fully cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran and other UN special procedures mandate-holders.

Thank you.