**Research Report**

**General Assembly 2**

***The issue of how to counteract the reaction of the Iranian Government to the protests of the civilians***

*Student Officers:*

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**Introduction**

In September 2022, Masha Amini was arrested by the Iranian morality police, because of wearing her hijab improperly in public. Three days later, Amini died and protests started to arise. Since then, civilians have been protesting by removing their hijab, burning headscarves, cutting hair, shouting “Woman, life, freedom”. These protests have resulted in many arrests and deaths for protesters. End of November 2022, UN rights chief stated 14,000 people, including women and children, had been arrested in the protests. In the beginning of December, the amount of deaths already reached over 300 people. United Nations’ independent human rights experts urged Iranian authorities to stop using the death penalty for people participating in these demonstrations. In a statement they said: “We reiterate our call to immediately release all protesters who have been arbitrarily deprived of their liberty for the sole reason of exercising their legitimate rights to freedom of opinion and expression, association and peaceful assembly and for their actions to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms through peaceful means”.

Worldwide people have also protested and shown their solidarity to Iran. For instance, women all around the world cut off pieces of their hair, showing their support to the Iranian women.

**The Committee**

General Assembly 2 is a fairly ordinary committee, meaning there are no special Rules of Procedure specific to this committee. In MUNA, General Assembly 2 deals with issues on human rights, which can include an immense number of topics. In this General Assembly, nations come together to discuss one’s (individual) rights and find solutions in a peaceful and respectful manner.

When debating on different solutions, it is important to note money is not an issue as nations can call upon the UN’s unlimited funds. Hence, a delegate should never vote or speak against a resolution because of financial reasons.

An important fact to note is that the real Second Committee deals with economic and financial issues and that the Human Rights Council would actually discuss the issues we do in this committee. Due to restrictions in space, human rights are being dealt with in General Assembly 2.

**Overview**

Iranian women are obligated, by the government, to wear a certain attire. When women’s attire do not fulfil the government’s expectation, consequences are harsh and brutal. Arrest and death can follow. The measures the Iranian authorities have taken with women’s public clothing has caused the Iranian population to rise up for their human rights; everyone has the right to freedom of religion.

One must consider the consequences of protesting and speaking up for human rights in Iran. Thousands of civilians have been arrested and/or killed due to coming up for their rights. Men, women and even children are giving their life, in order to protect the human rights. The United Nations member states should come together in order to solve this issue, and ensure safety and freedom for Iranian civilians.

**Arguments**

Iran is an Islamic state. The Iranian government uses the death penalty for anyone who wages war against God. Because of this, not wearing a hijab properly or protesting against wearing it, goes against the Iranian law and has extreme consequences.

One might state that the people in Iran have the human right to freedom of opinion, expression and religion. This is stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by all United Nations member states. Thus, should the Iranian civilians be able to choose their attire and religion for their own, and not face the death penalty for it. States might consider rising up against the Iranian government and the violations they do to civilians’ human rights.

Others might state that rising up against the Iranian government could be extremely dangerous, keeping in mind how the Iranian government responses to protesting. The lives that have been taken because of protesting prove the threatening power of the Iranian government.

**Timeline**

*April, 1983 --->* Hijab headscarf becomes obligatory for all women in Iran

*September 13, 2022 --->* Masha Amini is arrested by morality police due to “inappropriate

attire”.

*September 16, 2022 --->* Amini’s death

*September 17, 2022 – now ---> Start* of civil protest. The protests cause a lot of arrests and deaths for protesters. Worldwide people have also protested and shown their solidarity to Iran.

*November 24, 2022* ---> The U.N. Rights Council votes to appoint an independent investigation into the deadly repression of protests. Iran says it will not cooperate, calling it a political committee.

**Resolution**

When composing a resolution, a delegate should carefully consider their country’s perspective and opinion on the matter. Having read this research report is a good starting point for your research. Try to think of ways to counteract the reaction of the Iranian government to protests of the civilians. Remember to focus on all nations in the world keeping in mind the different crises in the world and the effects people all over the world experience from them. Make sure the measurements are realistic and achievable.

Moreover, you should keep in mind that different countries have different policies and keep the global differences in mind. These differences might be economic; however, they are also largely cultural. Make sure to research your country in detail, and keep in mind that you are speaking as if representing that nation. Therefore, make sure to have done some research about your country’s policies before joining the conference.

**Links and sources**

The UN:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/11/1130457>

Alarabiya News:

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2022/12/12/Timeline-Events-in-Iran-since-Mahsa-Amini-s-arrest-and-death-in-custody>

Iran Timelines:

<https://irantimelines.com>