

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Belgrade

H.E. Mr. Rashid Hassanpor Baei, Ambassador

Podgorica, 3 October 2022

Your Excellency,

Mr. Rashid Hassanpor Baei,

on behalf of the NGOs Human Rights Action and Women's Rights Center, we express our deepest concern as well as protest at the death in custody of Mahsa Amini - detained by Iran's "morality police" enforcing strict hijab rules - and the violent response by security forces to ensuing peaceful protests leading to at least 76 deaths. According to available reports, thousands have taken to the streets in cities throughout Iran to demand accountability for the young woman's death as well as an end to violence and discrimination against women in Iran. At least 76 people have been killed in the nationwide protests, and at least six women and four children were among those killed.

We are horrified by these reports and condemn every unnecessary or disproportionate use of force against protesters. Iran, as a State party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, must respect the right to life, prohibition against torture and protect freedom of expression, assembly, and association. The prohibition against torture is general and absolute in the sense that no exception can be accepted, defended, justified, or tolerated in any circumstance, and authorities in Iran need to imminently stop targeting, harassing, detaining and shooting at women who do not abide by the discriminatory hijab rules.

We are echoing past deep concerns of the UN Secretary-General and The Acting High Commissioner on Human Rights about the ongoing repression of women human rights defenders who object to compulsory veiling and the response of the authorities to protests against compulsory veiling. We are expressing our deepest solidarity with all those stand for human rights and especially women in Iran.

We are encouraging you to engage your powers to stop human rights violations and prevent such practices in future.

Sincerely,



Tea Gorjanc Prelević, HRA executive director



Maja Raičević, WRC director