

**United Nations Human Rights Council, 23<sup>rd</sup> Session (27 May – 14 June 2013)**

**Item 4 General Debate**

**Tuesday 4 June 2013**

**Speaker: CFI and IHEU representative, Elizabeth O'Casey**

**Torture in Iran**

Mr President,

At the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the Council, we drew the attention of the Council to a report published on 11 March by the UK organisation: "Freedom from Torture" which detailed thousands of cases of torture in Iran since the revolution.<sup>1</sup>

The report demonstrates unequivocally that torture is not confined to a single prison or institution but is spread across the country, showing clearly that this is systematic State policy. The victims have included young people who had merely attended a demonstration, or were simply related to persons suspected of being dissidents. They even included innocent bystanders picked up by the authorities in error.

In response to our statement, the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that he had not denied that torture takes place in Iran, but that it was not state policy.

In light of this admission, and the fact that torture is contrary to Iran's obligations under international law, may we, through you Sir, ask the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic what steps the Government of Iran, the Guardian Council, or the Supreme Leader are taking to eliminate torture in the country and bring the perpetrators to justice?

Thank you, Sir.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.freedomfromtorture.org/sites/default/files/documents/iran%20report\\_A5%20-%20FINAL%20-%20web.pdf](http://www.freedomfromtorture.org/sites/default/files/documents/iran%20report_A5%20-%20FINAL%20-%20web.pdf)