



**LAWYERS FOR  
LAWYERS**



Human Rights  
Institute



**The Law Society  
of England and Wales**

**Organization:** Lawyers for Lawyers  
**Item:** 4  
**Date:** 5 July 2023  
**Speaker:** Marije Pricker

**Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada**

WGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

**Oral Statement to the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council from Lawyers for Lawyers, The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada and The Law Society of England and Wales, NGOs in special consultative status.**

#### **ID with the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran**

Mr President,

We condemn the ongoing repressive campaign to quash the nation-wide protests triggered by the death of Mahsa Amini, as well as broader limitations on fundamental rights. Peaceful protestors have been met with disproportionate and lethal force by security forces, mass arbitrary arrests and death sentences on vague and broad national security charges.

Lawyers willing to represent these protesters and other human rights defenders have been targeted at an unprecedented rate with at least 70 being arrested<sup>1</sup> and at least 16 being sentenced to prison. Lawyers have faced charges of "propaganda against the state", "insulting the supreme leader" or "spreading falsehood to disturb public opinion." These coercive measures have sought to dissuade lawyers from defending the rights of political prisoners and protesters.

In recent months, more than 100 lawyers have been summoned to the Evin Prison's Prosecutor's Office with the aim of restricting their activities and instilling fear within the legal community.<sup>2</sup>

We thank the independent international fact-finding mission on Iran for this consultation and urge the authorities to immediately release all arbitrarily arrested protestors, human rights defenders, and lawyers, uphold the independence of the legal profession and ensure the right to a fair trial of all accused.

Thank you.

<sup>1</sup> <https://defendlawyers.files.wordpress.com/2023/06/obsav-special-iran-2023.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rferl.org/a/iran-lawyers-courts-summons-protests/32429530.html>