Concept Note
"Arria-Formula" Meeting on the Ongoing Protests in Iran
Hosted by the United States Mission to the United Nations and
the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations
November 2, 2022, from 1:15 –3:00 p.m.
UN Headquarters, Economic and Social Council Chamber
Webcast on UN WebTV

Background
In January 2022, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran Javaid Rehman issued a report that called on Iran to “conduct an independent, impartial and transparent inquiry consistent with international standards concerning the use of force by security forces during the November 2019 protests and hold accountable all perpetrators of human rights violations during those and other protests.”

Just eight months after this report, on September 16, 2022, Mahsa Amini died in the custody of Iranian “morality police.” Since her death, thousands of Iranian women have taken to the streets to protest Iran’s suppression of human rights and fundamental freedoms and structural gender inequity, as well as worsening economic conditions and government corruption and mismanagement of financial and natural resources. Government security forces continue to respond violently to peaceful protests, and the Iranian government continues its systemic repression of those seeking to exercise their rights to freedoms of expression and association and of peaceful assembly. Women and men have reported being detained and tortured – with credible allegations of gender based sexual violence at the hands of the Iranian authorities.

Amnesty International reports that the Iranian authorities have issued orders to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Basij paramilitary force, and the Law Enforcement Command to “severely confront” the protesters. At least 240 people have been killed as of October 16, according to human rights groups, with scores more injured. Amnesty International also reports that at least 23 children have been killed since the uprising began due to the unlawful use of force. Dozens of civil society activists, journalists, and lawyers have been detained to silence dissent.

Objective of the Meeting
The meeting will highlight the ongoing repression of women and girls and members of religious and ethnic minority groups in Iran. It will identify opportunities to promote credible, international, independent investigations into the Iranian government’s human rights violations and abuses. The meeting will underscore ongoing unlawful use of force against protesters and the Iranian regime’s pursuit of human rights defenders and dissidents abroad to abduct or assassinate them in contravention of international law.
**Briefers**
Prof. Javaid Rehman, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran  
Dr. Shirin Ebadi, Iranian Human Rights Defender and Nobel Peace Prize Winner  
Ms. Nazanin Boniadi, Activist

**Format**
The meeting will be held on November 2, from 1:15 – 3:00 PM at the United Nations Headquarters, in the Economic and Social Council Chamber.

The co-hosts will then give Security Council Representatives the opportunity to make brief two-minute interventions. Given time constraints, additional interventions from attendees will not be possible.

All Member States of the United Nations, as well as permanent observers and non-governmental organizations accredited to the UN are invited to attend. All participants must have an active UN Grounds Pass (blue badge).