

FAILURE OF THE UNITED NATIONS' BODIES

Under pressure from the Iranian government, several representatives of the NGO's with consultative status have been denied access to the Human Rights Commission

Since March 2004, six Iranian-born defenders of the human rights have been denied access to the UN Office in Geneva, on the basis of "real" false international warrants for arrest, delivered by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran forwarded to the INTERPOL as well as to the Director General of the UNOG. This is a real case of flagrant diversion of the international functioning procedures and mechanisms.

All the same, since the beginning of the 61st session of the HRC no real explanation has been provided by the UN authorities as to the reasons justifying the banning of these people despite their accreditation by the NGO's. This lack of argument gives rise to fears that a State like Iran, 51 times condemned by the UN bodies for its systematic violation of human rights, may freely use fraudulent methods to silence its opponents in the highest international body concerned with human rights. This situation could turn out to be dangerous for the very credibility of the United Nations itself.

Directly concerned, the NGO's supported by prominent lawyers and personalities, denounce a lack of determination toward such an unacceptable situation and demand an immediate lifting of the ban imposed unjustly on several human rights defenders, as well as respect of their own rights recognized by the ECOSOC, by virtue of the resolution no. 1996/31.

PRESS CONFERENCE

Mardi, 14 juin 2005 à 14 heures

Club suisse de presse - 106, Route de Ferney, 1202 - Genève, SUISSE

IN THE PRESENCE OF :

Danielle Mitterrand (Chairwoman of the "France Libertés" Fondation Danielle Mitterrand), **Christian Ferrazino** (Vice-President of Geneva's Administration Council), **Eric Sottas** (OMCT), **Patrick Baudouin** (Lawyer), **Jean- Jacques Kirkyacharian** (Representative of the MRAP with the UNOG), **Renate D. Bloem** (Chairwoman of the CONGO), **Pierre Bercis** (Secretary General of the Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme), **Lord Eslyn of Hardlay** (Professor of Law and former judge at the European Communities Court of Justice), **Lord Avebury** (Founder of the Human Rights Group at the British Parliament), **William Bourdon** (Lawyer), **Jean- Yves de Cara** (Professor of law and chairman of the International Law Institute at the University of Lyons), **Marc Henzelin** (Lawyer and professor of international law at Geneva University)...

SUPPORTED BY :

France Liberté – Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, World Organisation against Torture (OMCT), Movement against Racism and for Friendship Among Peoples (MRAP), Conference of Nongovernmental Organisations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (ONGO), Women's Human Rights International Association (WHRIA), International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples (LIDLIP), New Human Rights (NDH), National Federation of International Immigrant Women Association (NFIWA)...