

Canada

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
SOUS RÉSERVE DE MODIFICATIONS

STATEMENT BY

AMBASSADOR GILBERT LAURIN
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF CANADA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

TO THE THIRD COMMITTEE
60TH SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCTION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION L.45:
THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

NEW YORK, 8 NOVEMBER 2005

DÉCLARATION DE

L'AMBASSADEUR GILBERT LAURIN
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. DU CANADA
AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES

À LA TROISIÈME COMMISSION
60E SESSION DE L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE DES NATIONS UNIES

PRÉSENTATION DU PROJET DE RÉOLUTION L.45 :
LA SITUATION DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE EN
RÉPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D'IRAN

NEW YORK, LE 8 NOVEMBRE 2005

Mr. Chairperson,

The Government of Canada, together with 37 cosponsors, has tabled a resolution in the Third Committee concerning the human rights situation within the Islamic Republic of Iran, now before you as draft resolution L45. We thank all co-sponsors for their contribution to this resolution.

This Committee adopted a resolution on the situation of human rights in Iran at its last session, which expressed serious concerns regarding the human rights situation in that country. The resolution called on the Government of Iran to abide by the obligations it has freely undertaken under international human rights instruments, and to take immediate action to improve the situation in a number of specific areas. The resolution adopted at the 59th session called for a re-examination of the situation at the UN General Assembly's next session.

We have carefully followed the situation in Iran during the past year. During that time, there has been a marked deterioration in the Government of Iran's performance in protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of its people. Positive developments in 2005 have been sparse and the lack of progress and action by the Government of Iran are cause for serious concern. This assessment is shared by many members of the international community.

Mr. Chairperson,

The resolution before you has been carefully drafted to ensure accuracy and balance. The resolution is by no means exhaustive. Yet, it highlights specific and serious concerns on a range of human rights issues, from widespread denial of basic freedoms to inhumane treatment and punishment, and it calls the Government of Iran to action.

Opportunities for Iranians to express themselves and to advance human rights in their own country are severely constrained. Iranians who speak out find themselves at risk of further human rights violations. It is therefore necessary for the international community to express its views. It is our sincere wish that concerted international attention will promote and accelerate positive change, and support the efforts of all those working to improve the situation of human rights in Iran.

Thank you.