

[Provisional translation from Swedish]

Answer to question 2020/21:3343 by Anders Österberg (S)

The situation of the Baha'is in Iran

Anders Österberg (S) has asked me how I aim to address, directly with Iran, the intensified persecution, including the state sponsored hate propaganda, which is being levelled at the Baha'is of the country.

As I have stated in interpellation debates, most recently on April 6 (interpellation 2020/21:533) and also in answers to several questions addressed to the Parliament—amongst others nos. 44, 50, 142, 273, 325, 549, 1046, 1060, 1506, 1871, 2435, 3004, and 3100 during the current parliamentary year—the human rights situation in Iran continues to be very serious and the Swedish government continually raises these questions in bilateral contacts on different levels, including in my conversations with Foreign Minister Zarif. The Swedish government shares Anders Österberg's concern over the dire situation of the Baha'is in Iran. The Baha'is are especially discriminated against and hindered from practicing their religion. The Swedish Foreign Ministry's report on human rights, democracy, and the rule of law in Iran, published in December 2019, clearly exhibits the existing shortcomings. The safeguarding and respect for human rights are central in Sweden's relations with Iran. Sweden will no doubt continue to communicate a clear message regarding human rights, including rights for people that belong to ethnic and religious minorities, in its contacts with Iranian representatives, as well as in the UN, the EU, and in other relevant forums.

Stockholm July 23, 2021

Ann Linde