

Comments from the Islamic Republic of Iran
On the report of
The visit of Mr. Miloon Kothari,
The Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing

~~To begin with~~, I would like to express the gratitude of my Government to Mr. Miloon Kothari, the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing for his visit to Iran. In our view right to adequate housing contribute~~s~~ enormously to maintaining the dignity of the people. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that providing adequate accommodation for the people is among the most important factors in avoiding social malaise which in turn, leads to proliferation of obstacles to a sustainable development.

On the substance of the report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, it is to be noted that he has acknowledged many positive trends with respect to enjoyment of the rights to adequate housing and at the same time he has presented a number of recommendations. *on my country*

Complete A full picture of situation on housing in Iran, with a population of about 75 million and a vast earthquake prone area, ^ageographically unfriendly land, and a striving dynamism for development shows a constant progress and upward trend in promoting this fundamental right of the people. The Special Rapporteur in his press conference in Tehran on the August 9 2005 said and I quote "Since the revolution, there has been significant improvement in terms of access to water, sanitation, electricity and support for building, the overall situation, if you look at the homeless people or number of people living in slums, is definitely better" (end of quote).

General policies in housing sector in Iran are directed to poor income segments of the population. For this purpose, a number of initiatives, financial or otherwise, have been put forward, including elimination of housing tax, increase in low-interest credit facilities, encouraging mass constructors and establishment of housing cooperatives to engage in a massive lease program and subsidizing financial facilities interests for lower income population, up to two-third of the facilities. So far 40000 homes have been allocated for families under no guardianship. Unfortunately the report of the visit has failed to address the activities of the Housing Foundation and the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee in this respect. The ^{latter} IKRC has undertaken 35 major projects including in housing sector in 53000 villages and so far 550000 houses has been built and transferred to low income families.

Based on law in Iran, security of a legally obtained domicile is guaranteed and violation of this right would end up in legal pursuit. Traditional ownership title in rural areas does not necessarily impair the right to ownership.

In my government's opinion, Iranians living outside Iran are inseparable radiant of the colorful rainbow of Iranian Nation. They maintain their ties with their homeland and a large number of them visit Iran frequently and keep their residential property.

Social movements in the shape of immigration from rural areas to cities has caused a complex, multi-faceted and deep-rooted ^{phenomenon} ~~enigma~~ which needs to be dealt with in the most delicate manner.

Regarding Bam reconstruction, bearing in mind the magnitude of the event and the scale of destruction, it is fair to say that the work done in that area is praiseworthy and in the words of the Special Rapporteur "impressive". Reconstruction of a city like Bam is not a matter of erecting houses. Social, historical and moral reconstruction of the city is no less challenging than urban services. At present, 85 percent of the population has left the camps, in contradiction to what has been quoted from unknown NGO's.

Composition of the population in Iran touched upon in the report is historically and geographically inaccurate and ethnologically disputable. It is not clear how ethno-linguistic groups of "Iranian Nation" have been narrowed down to minorities subject to unsubstantiated discrimination.

~~was that the report was based on~~
Eliminating and belief is ~~not~~ by no means a bare
Thank you Mr. President in ~~the~~ allocation of
housing facilities,
Chaffa