



Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Statement

By

H.E. Mr. Ali BAHREINI

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

Before

Special Screening of the Documentary Film "The Ritual"

On the occasion of the 11th Anniversary of demise of

NELSON MANDELA

and UN Human Rights Day

Geneva, 10 December 2024

Esteemed Ambassadors, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon and Welcome!

We deeply appreciate you for enriching this occasion with your warm presence. It is a great honor to share such a talented and inspiring event with all of you.

Today, on **Human Rights Day**, we gather to commemorate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR); a landmark document and foundation for international human rights law and advocacy.

The Human Rights Day is an opportunity to reflect on one of the most significant global achievements in upholding and the pursuit of human dignity, freedom, respect, equality, and justice, regardless of race, gender, belief, nationality, or background.

Today, we reaffirm our commitments to address the ongoing struggles and challenges such as discrimination, oppression, inequality, displacement and injustice. and denial of the basic rights.

Throughout history, art has been a catalyst for profound social and cultural transformation. The unique power to make abstract ideals tangible, and to ignite the hope for building a more compassionate and equitable world.

Artistic expression transcends language and borders, awakening emotions, provoking thought, inspiring action, and allowing us to see the world through new perspective to elevate human understanding.

Art is a powerful force to challenge injustice, and foster empathy by telling stories that resonate across cultures and generations.

These mediums have a profound ability to open our hearts and minds, making us feel the weight of injustice and the transformative power of hope and reconciliation.

Art and audiovisual productions can amplify marginalized voices, spark dialogue, and inspire movements that advocate for fairness, equity, and dignity for all.

“The Ritual” is more than just recounting of a true story; it’s a testament to how storytelling can inspire collective action.

This documentary serves not only as a window into the struggles and aspirations of others but also as a mirror, reflecting our own roles and responsibilities in the pursuit of a more just and peaceful society.

As we view this film together, let us think about the ways in which art can continue to inspire us to act, with courage, kindness, and a shared commitment to the principles of pacifism and human dignity.

This honorable documentary has captured the essence of human spirit, the yearning for freedom, and the relentless pursuit of peace through the cinematic lens.

Today, we gather not just to watch a documentary but to celebrate the life and legacy of a man whose story embodies resilience, justice, and the unyielding pursuit of human dignity.

Commemoration of the late Nelson Mandela is unique opportunity to explore how his impactful contribution, improved the lives of the most oppressed people in the world.

Nelson Mandela's legacy extends far beyond the South Africa. Hopefully, the international communities are committed to follow this heritage to ensure prevailing democracy, peace and prosperity everywhere.

The world respects Nelson Mandela as a symbol of courage, resilience, the unwavering pursuit of peace and inspiring countless individuals to fight for their rights and dignity.

Today, let us think about how art can continue to guide us, move us, and empower us to champion the ideals that Mandela fought for. Let us carry forward his legacy, not just as an act of remembrance but as a call to action.

I would also like to express my special and deep gratitude to **H.E. Mr. Ambassador Mxolisi Nkosi** and the **Mission of South Africa** in Geneva and the **United Nations** for their valuable cooperation and initiative.

I thank you.