



Human Rights Council 38th session

Agenda item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

General Debate

Speaker: Dabrina Bet Tamraz

Date: 27 June 2018

Thank you, Mr. President.

My name is Dabrina Bet Tamraz. I am Iranian.

The Iranian authorities raided my family's home at the Christmas celebration in December 2014. Today, my father Pastor Victor Bet Tamraz is appealing a ten-year prison sentence. My brother, Ramiel, had a court hearing on 18 June at the Revolutionary Court in Tehran. My mother, Shamiram Isavi, is appealing a five-year prison sentence. Why? They are accused of "acting against national security and against the Iranian government by organizing illegal gatherings, attending a seminary abroad and training church leaders and pastors to act as spies".

When I was in Iran, I was also arrested, interrogated and accused of similar allegations.

These accusations are false, and a grave injustice. There are many Iranian Christians today serving sentences for similar baseless accusations. This is wrong. And these court cases must stop.

Iranian Christians, are not terrorists, as my father said this in his last court hearing, and I repeat, "We love our country. We pray for our authorities. We have no intentions against the government."

The World Evangelical Alliance appeals to the Iranian government to stop prosecuting Christians under false and baseless charges, and to respect Freedom of Religion of its citizens.

Thank you.