

Amnesty International wrote in its Iran briefing that "Iranian courts impose amputations and floggings as punishments—punishments which contravene human rights standards by their cruelty and inhumanity."

Over the past year, the advancement of personal rights and freedoms has been at the forefront of world news.

The 75 Canadian citizens of Iranian origin are pointing out that Iran is a country where human rights are virtually non-existent. They are in solidarity with political prisoners and the oppressed people of Iran. Their action should be commended, while at the same time the Canadian government must express in the strongest terms possible our grave concerns over the human rights violations in their homeland.

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[*Translation*]

POLITICAL SITUATION IN HAITI

Ms. Nicole Roy-Arcelin (Ahuntsic): Mr. Speaker, we heard with some consternation about recent events in Haiti. Political leaders, party leaders and journalists have been brutalized and deported without any regard for the most basic human rights and their rights under the Haitian Constitution. We are particularly concerned about these events because this government, coming after previous governments that had been compromised by acts of repression, had promised on a number of occasions that it would not only respect human rights but also work towards establishing a democratic government in this country by holding honest and free elections.

Mr. Speaker, our relations with Haiti and the size of the Haitian community in our country require us to be particularly attentive to developments in this country. That is why we appeal to the Canadian government to do everything in its power to ensure that minimum standards of safety and democracy are restored in Haiti as soon as possible.

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[*English*]

FISHERIES

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I stated in this House that an Atlantic fishing company faced economic disaster because the minister of fisheries

delayed authorizing the company's application to lease an American vessel.

Today the news is even worse. The unofficial word—and we have had no official word—is that the minister has refused the application.

Also, today, Mr. Jim Redmond, a representative of S. Stewart Fisheries, the company attempting to lease this American vessel, flew to Ottawa to speak with the minister. His efforts have proven to be as fruitless as getting the lease authorization.

Every level of government has approved the lease, including the minister's own department, but the minister turned it down. The minister has approved the use of Soviet vessels to fish Canadian quotas but will not approve Halifax fishermen. He has approved Cubans and Russians to fish Canadian quotas but will not approve nine Canadians to fish their own quotas.

The word to Mr. Redmond and his crew is that they should get a Newfoundland longliner when what they have is an enterprise allocation for a dragger.

This minister's lack of understanding of the east coast fishery is beyond belief. It is not something that Nova Scotians and Atlantic Canadians can take any longer. We need some action, we need it today, and we need to send Mr. Redmond and his crew back to work.

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AGRICULTURE

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek—Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, the prairie grain sector continues to suffer as a result of the ongoing subsidy wars between the United States and the EEC.

Projections now indicate a negative net income for Saskatchewan grain farmers this year. In other words, producers will not even have enough money to pay for the costs of operating a farm, let alone meeting their own family living expenses.

There is no cash flow in the grain growing areas at the present time. Many businesses in the villages, towns and cities which rely on farm customers are closing their doors.

Prairie farmers can compete very well against the rest of the world. They cannot compete against the treasuries of the governments of the United States and Europe.