

URGENT ACTION

RISK OF PROTEST-RELATED EXECUTIONS AMID KILLING SPREE

At least five individuals in Iran are under sentence of death in connection with the “Woman Life Freedom” uprising of 2022, while at least 15 others are at risk of the death penalty and eight have been arbitrarily executed following unfair sham trials. The authorities have severely violated their fair trial rights and subjected many to torture and other ill treatment, including beatings, electric shocks, and sexual violence. Concerns of further protest-related executions are mounting amid a spike in the use of the death penalty with the authorities having executed at least 115 people in November alone.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Fifth Urgent Action 103.22**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

Head of judiciary, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei
c/o Embassy of Iran to the European Union, Avenue
Franklin Roosevelt No. 15, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium

Supreme Leader 'Ali Khamenei
c/o Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to
the United Nations
622 3rd Ave, 34th floor, New York, NY 10017
Email: iranunny@mfa.gov.ir

Dear Mr. Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei,

I am gravely concerned that at least 20 people are at risk of the death penalty in connection with the “Woman Life Freedom” nationwide protests of September-December 2022. Among them are at least five individuals – **Manouchehr Mehman Navaz, Mansour Dahmardeh, Mohammad Ghobadlou, Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkouri and Reza (Gholamreza) Rasaei** - currently under the sentence of death and at grave risk of execution following grossly unfair trials. At least one other – **Mahan Sadrat (Sedarat) Madani** – is facing a retrial on capital charges after his conviction and death sentence were quashed by the Supreme Court in December 2022 and his case returned to lower courts. At least two others – **Saeed Shirazi** and **Abolfazl Mehri Hossein Hajilou** have undergone trial on charges that carry the death penalty. The authorities have used torture-tainted “confessions” as evidence to issue convictions. Amnesty International has documented torture of four of those under sentence of death, through beatings, electric shocks, suffocation, sexual violence, and deliberate denial of healthcare.

I urge you to immediately quash all convictions and death sentences stemming from the protests, refrain from seeking further death sentences, and ensure that anyone charged with a recognizable criminal offense is tried in proceedings meeting international fair trial standards without recourse to the death penalty. I call for the release of all those detained for peacefully exercising their human rights. I urge you to provide detainees access to their families and lawyers of their own choosing, protect them from further torture and other ill-treatment, and investigate torture allegations, bringing anyone found responsible to justice in fair trials.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

According to informed sources, during interrogations authorities subjected **Reza (Gholamreza) Rasaei** to electric shocks, suffocation by putting a plastic bag over his head, and severe beatings. In October 2023, he was convicted of “murder” and sentenced to death, admitting his torture-tainted forced “confessions” as “evidence”. The authorities repeatedly beat **Mohammad Ghobadlou** whose conviction for “corruption on earth” and death sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court in December 2022, and withheld his bipolar medication. In April 2023, Iran’s judiciary announced that a Revolutionary Court in Ahvaz, Khuzestan province, sentenced **Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkouri** to death for “enmity against God”, “corruption on earth”, and “armed rebellion against the state”. His grossly unfair trial was marred by torture-tainted “confessions” obtained while he was subjected to enforced disappearance.

Of the five individuals under sentence of death, **Mansoureh Dahmardeh** and **Manouchehr Mehman Navaz** were sentenced to death for offenses such as stone-throwing and arson in violation of international law which prohibits the death penalty for offenses that do not involve intentional killing. A Revolutionary Court in Tehran convicted and sentenced Manouchehr Mehman Navaz to death on allegations of setting fire to a state building during protests “with intent to confront the Islamic state.” The court ruled this amounted to “enmity against God” after a grossly unfair trial; and his death sentence was issued just two weeks after his trial started on October 29, 2022.

The Iranian authorities have recently embarked on another alarming execution spree, executing at least 115 people in November alone or almost double the number of executions carried out in November 2022. According to figures compiled by Abdorrahman Boroumand Center, on November 15, the authorities carried out at least 14 executions in a single day. Those arbitrarily executed in November 2023 include: **Hamidreza Azari** who was a 17-year-old child at the time of execution; two Sunni Kurdish men **Ayoub Karimi** and **Ghassem Abasteh**; and **Kamran Rezaei**, executed in connection to the November 2019 nationwide protests. This spike comes against the backdrop of the Iranian authorities intensifying their use of the death penalty as a tool of political repression to torment and terrorize people in Iran and impose silence and subservience through brute force. In 2023, the authorities have executed several individuals below the age of 18 at the time of the crime; while drug-related executions have almost doubled compared to 2022 and the oppressed Baluchi minority remain disproportionately targeted for executions.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Persian, English, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: February 14, 2024

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Manouchehr Mehman Navaz, Mansour Dahmardeh, Mohammad Ghobadlou, Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkouri, Reza (Gholamreza) Rasaei, Mahan Sadrat (Sedarat) Madani, Saeed Shirazi, Abolfazl Mehri Hossein Hajilou (all he/him)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6817/2023/en/>