

URGENT ACTION MAN

FACING IMMINENT PROTEST-RELATED EXECUTION

Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkouri is at imminent risk of execution in relation to the September-December 2022 popular uprising. On December 24, his family learned that Branch 39 of the Supreme Court upheld his conviction and death sentence. His sentence was sent for implementation, amid an ongoing spike in executions across the country. He is being held in solitary confinement and has been repeatedly subjected to torture and other ill-treatment, including severe beatings.

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 **Second Urgent Action 64.23**. 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
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Dear Mr. Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei,

I am concerned that **Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkouri** is at imminent risk of execution; on December 24, 2023, his sister stated publicly that the Supreme Court upheld her brother's conviction and death sentence.

In early April 2023, Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkouri was sentenced to death for "enmity against God" (moharebeh), "corruption on earth" (efsad-e fel arz), and "armed rebellion against the state" (baghi). His trial was grossly unfair: the authorities denied him access to his independently chosen lawyer, and his forced "confessions" were aired by Iranian state media after his arrest in late December 2022, including in one video where he was filmed in bed with his arm visibly bloody and bandaged. The authorities accused him of involvement in the killing of a child during protests in Izeh, Khuzestan province, on November 16, 2022. However, according to Amnesty International's investigations, plainclothes security officials used unlawful lethal force during protests in Izeh and fatally fired live ammunition at the child. Authorities blamed "terrorists", but the boy's family refuted these claims publicly and attributed responsibility to the authorities.

I urge you to immediately halt any plans to carry out Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkouri's execution and quash his conviction and death sentence. If he is charged with a recognizable criminal offense, proceedings must meet international fair trial standards without recourse to the death penalty and exclude coerced "confessions". I urge you to immediately grant Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkouri access to his family, an independently chosen lawyer, and adequate medical care. I urge you to protect him from further torture and other ill-treatment and investigate torture allegations.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mojahed Kourkouri was arrested on December 20, 2022 near Ghalehtol, Khuzestan province during what state media reported as an “armed clash”. During his arrest, Mojahed Kourkouri sustained injuries to his knee from live ammunition and to his arm from grenade shrapnel. After late April 2023, during infrequent brief phone calls to his family, Mojahed Kourkouri said that “they [authorities] will kill me”, and said he was in a great deal of pain, including in his injured knee, and in need of healthcare. He also said he believed authorities were forcibly administering chemical substances on him. In late April 2023, Mojahed Kourkouri’s independently chosen lawyer learned that he was being held in Sheiban prison and was permitted to briefly visit him.

According to information received by Amnesty International, Mojahed Kourkouri was not at the protests taking place in Izeh on November 16, 2023. Relatives of **Kian Pirfalak**, the nine-year-old child fatally shot by security officials that day, have also repeatedly stated publicly that Mojahed Kourkouri was not involved in the killing of their loved-one; and have repeatedly and publicly attributed responsibility to Iran’s security forces. Amnesty International previously [documented](#) how plainclothes security officials fatally shot Kian Pirfalak with live ammunition during protests. Security forces fired toward the car in which Kian Pirfalak was travelling with his family.

The death of Kian Pirfalak sparked an outpouring of rage and solidarity both in Iran and globally, particularly after a video went viral that showed him opening a school presentation with the words “in name of a God of Rainbow” and then testing a boat made up of ice cream sticks. The same evening that Kian Pirfalak was fatally shot, state officials including Valiollah Hayati, the Deputy Governor of Khuzestan Province for Law Enforcement and Security Affairs, claimed that “terrorist agents” were responsible for the incident. After Mojahed Kourkouri was named in Iranian state media as having been arrested in relation to Kian Pirfalak’s killing, the family of Kian Pirfalak publicly denied his involvement. Amnesty International has [documented](#) a pattern of the Iranian authorities systematically covering-up and concealing their crimes and denying responsibility for the unlawful killings of children.

The Iranian authorities have recently embarked on another alarming execution spree, executing at least 115 people in November 2023 alone. This spike comes against the backdrop of the Iranian authorities intensifying their use of the death penalty as a tool of political repression to impose silence and subservience through brute force. Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception. Amnesty International has consistently called on all states that retain the death penalty, including Iran, to establish an official moratorium on executions, with a view to completely abolishing the death penalty.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: March 1, 2024

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkouri (he, his)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6935/2023/en/>