URGENT ACTION

**TORTURED MAN FACING PROTEST-RELATED EXECUTION**

**Kurdish man Reza Rasaei, from the Yaresan religious minority, is at imminent risk of execution in relation to the “Woman Life Freedom” uprising after the Supreme Court rejected a request for judicial review on January 16. His death sentence was issued following a grossly unfair trial that relied on his torture-tainted forced “confessions” obtained under beatings, electric shocks, suffocation, suspension, and sexual violence.**

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](https://www.amnestyusa.org/report-urgent-actions/) to let us know the actions you took on ***Third Urgent Action 107.23*.** 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 the 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

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Dear Mr. Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei,

**Reza (Gholamreza) Rasaei**, aged 34, from Iran’s oppressed Kurdish and Yaresan ethnic and religious minorities respectively, is at imminent risk of execution. On October 7, 2023, Branch Two of Criminal Court One in Kermanshah province convicted Reza Rasaei and sentenced him to death in connection with the death of the commander of the Intelligence Organization of the Revolutionary Guards in Sahneh, Kermanshah province, during a protest on November 18, 2022. Reza Rasaei has repeatedly denied any involvement and stated, including during trial, that his forced “confessions” were extracted through torture and other ill-treatment. Authorities have flagrantly violated Reza Rasaei’s fair trial rights. Courts have also unlawfully relied on forced “confessions” extracted from Reza Rasaei and others under torture and other ill-treatment to convict him.

Reza Rasaei was arrested in November 2022. According to an informed source, he was subjected to enforced disappearance for the first four months of his detention. During this time, agents from the Intelligence Organization of the Revolutionary Guards interrogated him and subjected him to torture and other ill-treatment, including electric shocks, suffocation by placing a plastic bag over his head, prolonged suspension, severe beatings, and sexual violence, to compel his forced “confessions”. Since his arrest, authorities have denied him access to adequate healthcare, including for his torture-related injuries. No investigations are known to have been carried out into his torture allegations.

I urge you to immediately halt any plans to carry out Reza (Gholamreza) Rasaei’s execution and quash his conviction and death sentence. Pending his release, grant him regular access to his family, chosen lawyer, and adequate medical care; protect him from further torture and other ill-treatment; and investigate his torture allegations. Finally, I urge you to grant independent observers access to capital trials connected to protests.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Reza Rasaei** was arrested on November 24, 2022, in Shahriar, Tehran province, six days after attending an annual commemoration on November 18, 2022, in Sahneh marking the death of a spiritual leader of the Yaresan faith. The memorial ceremony turned into a protest, which included calls for truth and justice for the unlawful killing of Kian Pirfalak two days prior by security forces in Izeh, Khuzestan province, in the context of the “Woman Life Freedom” protests. During the protest in Sahneh on November 18, 2022, an agent from the Intelligence Organization of the Revolutionary Guards died after sustaining multiple knife wounds. Authorities accused Reza Rasaei, among others present at the commemoration, of stabbing the official, which he repeatedly denied. Following his arrest, Reza Rasaei was transferred to a detention facility where agents subjected him to severe beatings, electric shocks, and suffocation by putting a plastic bag over his head. Other methods of torture inflicted upon him included suspension from the ceiling while his hands and legs were tied behind his back for prolonged periods of time. Agents also subjected Reza Rasaei to sexual violence.

Reza Rasaei’s trial in front of Branch Two of Criminal Court One in Kermanshah took place over three sessions, with the final hearing held on September 21, 2023. Reza Rasaei told the judge during trial that his forced “confessions” were made as a result of torture and other ill-treatment during interrogations. The judge did not order investigations into his torture claims or refer Reza Rasaei for forensic examination. During both the appeal and request for judicial review, the Courts disregarded key evidence, including Reza Rasaei’s lawyer’s submissions detailing the flawed and incomplete nature of investigations. Moreover, the submissions highlighted that the sole prosecution witness who claimed during interrogations that he saw Reza Rasaei stab the agent from the front subsequently recanted his initial statements and said they were made under torture and other ill-treatment.

From September-December 2022, a popular uprising against the Islamic Republic system took place across Iran, sparked by the death in custody on September 16, 2022, of Jina/Mahsa Amini days after her arbitrary arrest by Iran’s “morality” police. To date, the authorities have arbitrarily executed nine people in connection with the protests of 2022 after unfair sham trials marred by torture allegations, and amid a spike in the number of executions of protesters and dissidents in recent months. The authorities have executed at least 14 people in connection with nationwide protests since 2018 and are increasingly using the death penalty to impose silence and subservience through brute force.

Ethnic and religious minorities in Iran suffer entrenched discrimination in law and in practice. Iranian authorities curtail the access of ethnic minorities to education, employment, and political office. Religious minorities, including Yaresan, also are subjected to discrimination in law and practice, including in access to education, employment, child adoption, political office, and places of worship.

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

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL**: April 4, 2024

**NAME AND PREFFERED PRONOUN**: Reza (Gholamreza) Rasaei (his/him)

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA**: https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/7561/2024/en/