

# URGENT ACTION

## PROTEST-RELATED EXECUTION IMMINENT FOR TORTURED MAN

Kurdish man, Reza Rasaei, from the Yaresan religious minority, is at imminent risk of execution in relation to the “Woman Life Freedom” uprising. He has exhausted all legal avenues and could be executed at any moment. He was sentenced to death after a grossly unfair trial that relied on his forced “confessions” obtained under torture and other ill-treatment, including beatings, electric shocks, suffocation, 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](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Fourth 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  
622 3rd Ave, 34th floor,  
New York, NY 10017  
Email: [iranunny@mfa.gov.ir](mailto:iranunny@mfa.gov.ir)

Dear Mr. Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei / Your Excellency,

**Reza (Gholamreza) Rasaei**, aged 34, from Iran’s oppressed Kurdish and Yaresan ethnic and religious minorities, respectively, is at imminent risk of execution in relation to the “Woman Life Freedom” uprising of September-December 2022. His death sentence has been sent for implementation, meaning that he could be executed at any moment.

Reza Rasaei was arrested in November 2022. He was subjected to enforced disappearance for the first four months of his detention. According to an informed source, he was interrogated and subjected 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”. Authorities have denied him access to adequate healthcare, including for 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 execute Reza (Gholamreza) Rasaei, quash his conviction and death sentence, and release him. Pending his release, I urge you to 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, 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, with people calling for truth and justice for the unlawful killing of Kian Pirlalak two days prior by security forces in Izeh, Khuzestan province, in the context of the “Woman Life Freedom” protests. During the protest in Sahneh, 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 security official, which he repeatedly denied. According to an informed source, following his arrest, Reza Rasaei was transferred to a detention facility in Sahneh, where agents subjected him to severe beatings, electric shocks, and suffocation by putting a plastic bag over his head. According to information obtained by Amnesty International, agents also subjected him to suspension from the ceiling while his hands and legs were tied behind his back for prolonged periods of time, and to sexual violence. He is currently held in Dizel Abad prison, Kermanshah province.

Revolutionary Guards agents put several lawyers selected by Reza Rasaei’s family under intense pressure to stop representing him. He was only able to secure and meet with a lawyer of his choosing after the investigation stage ended and he was transferred to Dizel Abad prison about four months after his arrest. 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. When Reza Rasaei told the judge during trial that his forced “confessions” were made under torture and other ill-treatment, the presiding judge merely asked Reza Rasaei to show his torture-related bruises, even though the trial was taking place more than six months after interrogations had ended and when the bruises would no longer be visible. 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 defense submissions detailing the flawed and incomplete nature of investigations, highlighting, among other issues, concerns over the opinion of the Legal Medical Examiner on the number of weapons used in the agent’s killing. 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, an unprecedented 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.

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:** June 26, 2024

**NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN:** Reza (Gholamreza) Rasaei (he/him).

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA:** <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/7687/2024/en/>