

URGENT ACTION

WOMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER AT RISK OF EXECUTION

Human rights defender, Sharifeh Mohammadi, is at risk of execution after a Revolutionary Court in Rasht, Gilan province, sentenced her to death in June 2024 solely in relation to her peaceful human rights activities. She supported women's and workers' rights as well as the abolition of the death penalty, and until 2011 was a member in a workers' committee in Iran, where independent trade unions are banned. Her trial was grossly unfair, and her allegations of torture and other ill-treatment were never investigated.

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 **Urgent Action 80.24**. 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, or Supreme Leader 'Ali Khamenei,

Human rights defender, **Sharifeh Mohammadi**, 45, is at risk of execution in Lakan prison, Gilan province, after Branch 1 of the Revolutionary Court of Rasht, Gilan province, sentenced her to death in June 2024. She was convicted of "armed rebellion against the state" (baghi) solely in relation to her peaceful human rights activities, including supporting women's and workers' rights as well as the abolition of the death penalty, and her past membership with the Coordinating Committee to Help to Form Workers' Organizations, which advocates for trade unions. Her appeal is pending before the Supreme Court.

Sharifeh Mohammadi's trial, which consisted of one 30-minute session on June 9, 2024, was grossly unfair. She was connected from prison via video conference and was denied the right to speak. The verdict lists her peaceful human rights activities as "evidence" against her, including possession of documents supporting women prisoners, her abolitionist position, and ties to the Coordinating Committee to Help to Form Workers' Organizations.

I call on you to halt any plans to execute Sharifeh Mohammadi, quash her conviction and death sentence, and release her immediately and unconditionally, as she is held solely for her peaceful human rights activism. Pending her release, provide her with adequate healthcare and regular visits from family and lawyers; protect her from further torture and other ill-treatment; and order an independent, effective and impartial investigation into her torture allegations, bringing anyone suspected of criminal responsibility to justice in fair trials. Also, immediately establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On December 5, 2023, agents arbitrarily arrested **Sharifeh Mohammadi** from her home in Rasht and seized her electronic devices and other personal items before taking her to a Ministry of Intelligence detention facility in Rasht. There, she was subjected to interrogations without access to a lawyer and denied contact with her family, while blindfolded and repeatedly questioned. Interrogations revolved around her human rights activism, including reasons for her stance against the death penalty and support for prisoners held for politically motivated reasons. After several days, she was transferred to solitary confinement in Lakan prison, where interrogations about her activism continued.

On December 28, 2023, after her transfer to a Ministry of Intelligence detention center in Sanandaj, interrogations continued and according to an informed source, agents subjected her to further torture and other ill-treatment. Agents sought to compel her forced “confessions” that she had ties to Komala Party of Kurdistan, a banned Kurdish opposition group based in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, which she denied. About late January 2024, when Sharifeh Mohammadi was transferred to solitary confinement in Sanandaj prison, she filed a complaint about her treatment in the Sanandaj Ministry of Intelligence detention facility, but no investigations were conducted. Four weeks later, prosecution officials pressured her to withdraw her complaint. In late February 2024, after she withdrew her complaint under pressure, she was transferred back to Lakan prison, where she remains.

According to international human rights law and standards, authorities are required to ensure independent, impartial, and effective investigations into allegations of torture and other ill-treatment when information about such alleged crimes is available, even in the absence of formal complaints. Amnesty International has repeatedly [documented](#) how in Iran prosecution authorities routinely dismiss or deny allegations of torture and other ill treatment instead of investigating them.

Sharifeh Mohammadi’s trial before Branch 1 of the Revolutionary Court of Rasht was grossly unfair. Her lawyer was provided only 10 minutes to present a defense. The verdict, issued on June 30, 2024, and reviewed by Amnesty International, lists peaceful human rights activities as “evidence” of Sharifeh Mohammadi’s acts “against the foundations of the Islamic Republic of Iran”.

In the aftermath of the “Woman Life Freedom” uprising, Iranian authorities have intensified their use of the death penalty to instill fear among the population and tighten their grip on power. This escalation includes the use of the death penalty against women on politically motivated charges. Kurdish civil society activist, Pakhshan Azizi, was convicted in July 2024 of “armed rebellion against the state” (baghi) and sentenced to death by Revolutionary Court solely due to her peaceful activism. At least two other women, Wrisha Moradi and Nasim Gholami Simiyari, also were tried for “armed rebellion against the state” (baghi) in separate cases. In 2023, authorities carried out [at least 853 executions](#), and the use of the death penalty has disproportionately impacted Iran’s persecuted Baluchi ethnic minority, who constitute about 5% of Iran’s population, yet accounted for 20% of all executions in 2023.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: December 9, 2024

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Sharifeh Mohammadi (she/her).