

# URGENT ACTION

## TORTURED IRANIAN KURDISH MAN SENTENCED TO DEATH

Iranian Kurdish man **Reza (Gholamreza) Rasaei** is at risk of execution in relation to the **September to December 2022 nationwide protests in Iran**. Following a grossly unfair trial, on **October 7, 2023**, **Branch Two of Criminal Court 1 of Kermanshah province** convicted him of “murder” and sentenced him to death, admitting his torture-tainted forced “confessions” as “evidence”.

### 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 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 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  
Phone: (212) 687-2020  
Email: iranunny@mfa.gov.ir

Dear Mr. Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei,

**Reza (Gholamreza) Rasaei**, aged 34, from Iran's oppressed Kurdish and Yaresan ethnic and religious minorities, respectively, is at risk of execution in relation to the 2022 “Woman Life Freedom” nationwide protests. In a verdict dated October 7, 2023, Reza Rasaei was convicted of “murder” for his alleged involvement in the killing of an agent, identified as a member of the Revolutionary Guards, and was sentenced to death. Reza Rasaei has repeatedly denied involvement, including during trial. The court also convicted him of “disrupting public order” and sentenced him to one year in prison and 74 lashes. In the verdict, the court summarily dismissed Reza Rasaei's retraction of his forced “confession”, which he had said during trial was obtained under torture.

Reza Rasaei was arrested on November 24, and subsequently transferred to a detention facility controlled by the Agahi in Sahneh. During interrogations there, Agahi agents subjected Reza Rasaei to torture and other ill-treatment, including electric shocks, suffocation by putting a plastic bag over his head and severe beatings. Reza Rasaei was subsequently transferred to Dizel Abad prison in Kermanshah province, where he remains. His right to a fair trial was violated, including access to a lawyer of his choosing.

I urge you to immediately quash the conviction and death sentence against Reza (Gholamreza) Rasaei. If charged with a recognizable criminal offence, proceedings must meet international fair trial standards without recourse to the death penalty and exclude “confessions” obtained under torture. I urge you to immediately grant Reza Rasaei access to his family, independently chosen lawyer, and adequate medical care. I urge you to protect him from further torture and other ill-treatment and investigate his torture allegations, bringing anyone found responsible to justice in fair trials.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

From September to December 2022, an unprecedented popular uprising against the Islamic Republic system took place across Iran sparked by the death of Zhina/Mahsa Amini days after her arbitrary arrest by Iran's "morality" police. Hundreds of protesters and bystanders were unlawfully killed by Iranian security forces, including dozens of children, and thousands sustained injuries for which many did not seek medical care due to fear of arrest. More than half of those killed belonged to the oppressed Baluchi minority in Sistan and Baluchestan province and the Kurdish minority in the provinces of Kurdistan, Kermanshah, and West Azerbaijan.

To date, the authorities have arbitrarily executed seven men in connection with the "Woman Life Freedom" protests after grossly unfair trials marred by torture allegations. On May 19, 2023, Iranian authorities executed Majid Kazemi, Saleh Mirhashemi, and Saeed Yaghoubi, who were put on trial in December 2022 and January 2023, and sentenced to death on the vaguely worded and overly broad charge of "enmity against God" (moharebeh). May 10, 2023, the authorities announced that their convictions and sentences had been upheld by the Supreme Court despite due process violations, significant procedural flaws, lack of evidence, and torture allegations that were never investigated.

Torture is a violation of international law, and its use is prohibited under all circumstances. Statements elicited as a result of torture, ill-treatment, or other forms of coercion must be excluded as evidence in criminal proceedings. Anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge must be treated in full compliance with Iran's human rights obligations including rights to a fair trial. Amnesty International has consistently documented a pattern of systematic violations of the rights to a fair trial in Iran from the time of arrest and throughout the investigation, trial, and appeal proceedings. Courts routinely ignore allegations of torture, without ordering an investigation, and rely on torture-tainted "confessions" to issue sentences, including in death penalty cases. Under international law, the imposition of the death penalty following an unfair trial constitutes an arbitrary deprivation of life.

Ethnic and religious minorities in Iran suffer discrimination in law and in practice. Iranian authorities curtail the access of ethnic minorities to education, employment, and political office. In 2023, Amnesty International documented how the Iranian authorities have intensified their use of the death penalty as a tool of political repression against ethnic minorities from Iran's Kurdish and Baluchi minorities. 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.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception. The death penalty is a violation of the right to life and the ultimate cruel, inhuman, and degrading punishment. 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

You can also write in your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** January 1, 2024

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

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