

URGENT ACTION

MAN AT GRAVE RISK OF PROTEST-RELATED EXECUTION IN IRAN

Iranian Kurdish man Reza (Gholamreza) Rasaei is at imminent risk of execution in relation to the September-December 2022 nationwide protests. On December 16, 2023, his conviction and death sentence for “murder”, which were issued by a criminal court following a grossly unfair trial that admitted his torture-tainted forced “confessions” as “evidence”. On December 31, his sentence was sent for implementation, amid an ongoing alarming spike in executions across the country.

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 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
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 imminent risk of execution in relation to the “Woman Life Freedom” nationwide protests which took place between September and December 2022. In a ruling dated December 16, 2023, his conviction for “murder” was upheld with the death sentence.

On October 7, 2023, Branch Two of Criminal Court 1 in Kermanshah province sentenced Reza Rasaei was sentenced to death in connection to the killing of an agent, identified as a member of the Revolutionary Guards by Iranian state media. Reza Rasaei has repeatedly denied involvement and stated, including during trial, that his forced “confessions” were made under torture and other ill treatment. Despite this, his forced “confessions” were admitted as “evidence”. Reza Rasaei's right to a fair trial was flagrantly violated, including to access to a lawyer of his choosing.

I urge you to immediately halt any plans to carry out Reza (Gholamreza) Rasaei's execution and quash his conviction and death sentence. If charged with a recognizable criminal offense, 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.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

From September to December 2022, an 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. Iranian authorities extensively and unlawfully fired live ammunition, metal pellets, and tear gas and subjected protesters to severe beatings. Hundreds of protesters and bystanders were unlawfully killed by 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 eight people in connection with the protests of 2022 after grossly unfair trials marred by torture allegations. On November 23, 2023, authorities executed **Milad Zohrevand**, ten days after his conviction and death sentence for "murder" in relation to the death of a Revolutionary Guards agent during the protests. According to human rights activists based outside Iran, after his arrest, he was denied access to a lawyer.

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. In view of the irreversible nature of the death penalty, the proceedings in capital cases must scrupulously observe all relevant international standards protecting the right to a fair trial. 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 and other ill treatment, without ordering an investigation, and rely on torture-tainted "confessions" to issue convictions and sentences, including in death penalty cases.

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.

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. For instance, on January 2, 2024, the authorities arbitrarily executed Iranian Kurdish man [Davoud Abdollahi](#), sentenced to death for "corruption on earth" following a unfair torture-tainted trial. The authorities are using this ultimate cruel and inhuman punishment to impose subservience through brute force.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: February 29, 2024

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

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/7381/2023/en/>