

URGENT ACTION

EXECUTION RISK FOR TORTURED DISSIDENT RAPPER

Dissident rapper, **Toomaj Salehi**, is at risk of execution after a Revolutionary Court in Esfahan sentenced him to death in April 2024 solely in relation to his participation in the “Woman Life Freedom” uprising and social media posts critical of the Iranian authorities. His trial was grossly unfair, and authorities dismissed his complaints of torture, including electric shocks, death threats, and repeated beatings resulting in bone fractures and vision impairment in one eye.

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 44.24**. 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

Your Excellency,

I request that you halt any plans to execute 33-year-old rapper, **Toomaj Salehi**, quash his conviction and death sentence, and release him immediately and unconditionally, as he is held solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights.

Pending his release, provide him with adequate healthcare and regular visits with his family and lawyers; protect him from further torture and other ill-treatment; and order an independent, effective, and impartial investigation into his torture allegations, bringing anyone suspected of criminal responsibility to justice in fair trials. I urge you to grant independent observers access to protest-related capital trials.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In a media interview on October 30, 2022, the day of **Toomaj Salehi's** arrest, the prosecutor of Esfahan, Mohammad Mousavian, violated his right to the presumption of innocence by publicly accusing him of playing a "key role in instigating, inciting and encouraging riots". In violation of his rights not to self-incriminate and to presumption of innocence, the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) and other state media outlets broadcast multiple propaganda videos accusing Toomaj Salehi of "inciting sedition and street riots" and showing his arrest and forced "confessions" obtained while he was detained without access to a lawyer and subjected to torture and other ill-treatment. On November 27, 2022, authorities announced that they had indicted him on multiple charges, after which his lawyer, Amir Raesian, stated in a media interview that Toomaj Salehi's legal team had submitted objections to the case against him, including on the grounds that the criminal investigation and charges were flawed. The Revolutionary Court accepted these objections and returned the case to the prosecution to "correct deficiencies in the investigation", though the charges were not amended by the prosecution authorities.

Toomaj Salehi's trial took place on July 2, 2023 before Branch 1 of the Revolutionary Court in Esfahan. He was only permitted 30 minutes to meet with his lawyers in Esfahan Intelligence Detention Centre prior to the trial. On July 10, 2023, Toomaj Salehi's lawyer said in a media interview that Branch 1 of the Revolutionary Court in Esfahan had issued its verdict, convicting him of six charges, acquitting him of two, and sentencing him to a total of 18 years and nine months in prison. According to his lawyer, the court sentenced him to six years and three months in prison under the Note to Article 286 of the Islamic Penal Code, which is the charge of "corruption on earth" (efsad fel arz). He was also sentenced to one year and three months in prison for "spreading lies with the intention of disturbing public opinion" for the same alleged acts of which he was convicted under the Note to Article 286. According to his lawyer, both these charges stem from his posts on X [formerly Twitter] in relation to the uprising and criticism of the authorities.

On January 21, 2024, Toomaj Salehi's lawyer reported on X that the Revolutionary Court had sent the case back to the prosecutor's office and ordered for a new indictment with 10 charges to be issued, including the two he was previously acquitted of, as well as two new charges, namely "gathering and colluding to commit crimes against national security" and "complicity in armed rebellion against the state" (baghi). In April 2024, the Revolutionary Court ultimately sentenced him to death for "corruption on earth" (efsad fel arz).

On November 18, 2023, after the Supreme Court had overturned the Revolutionary Court verdict, Toomaj Salehi was released on bail. On November 26, 2023, he published a video on his YouTube page detailing the torture to which he was subjected and the formal complaints he had made to the authorities about his detention. Consequently, on November 30, 2023, the authorities re-arrested him. In March 2024, a criminal court in Esfahan sentenced him to one year in prison in relation to this case. He also faces charges in a new case stemming from his peaceful online activities.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: July 11, 2024

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Toomaj Salehi (he/him)