Seventh UA: 103/22 Index: MDE 13/8873/2024 Iran Date: 19 December 2024

## **URGENT ACTION**

## RISKS OF FURTHER PROTEST-RELATED EXECUTIONS

At least 10 individuals in Iran are under sentence of death in connection with the "Woman Life Freedom" nationwide protests of September-December 2022. Iranian authorities have arbitrarily executed 10 others following grossly unfair sham trials and subjected many to torture and other ill-treatment, including beatings, electric shocks, and sexual violence. Concerns of further executions are mounting amid an ongoing execution spree.

## 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.
- <u>Click here</u> to let us know the actions you took on **Seventh Urgent Action 103.22**. 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

CC: 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,

I am gravely concerned that at least 10 people are at risk of executions in connection with the "Woman Life Freedom" uprising that started in September 2022. Among them are **Fazel Bahramian**, **Manouchehr Mehman Navaz**, **Mehran Bahramian**, **Milad Armoun**, **Alireza Kafaei**, **Amir Mohammad Khosheghbal**, **Navid Najaran**, **Hossein Nemati**, **Alireza Bamerzpournak**, and **Mehrab (Mehran) Abdullahzadeh** – currently under sentence of death and at risk of execution following grossly unfair trials.

The aforementioned individuals have faced grossly unfair trials before Revolutionary Courts and/or Criminal Courts in different parts of the country. The courts have used torture-tainted "confessions", some of which were broadcast on state media prior to their trials, to convict them. Methods of torture and other ill-treatment documented by Amnesty International against some of the individuals include beatings, electric shocks, suffocation, sexual violence, and deliberate denial of healthcare.

I urge you to immediately quash all convictions and death sentences stemming from the protests, refrain from further death sentences, and ensure that anyone charged with a recognizable criminal offense is tried in proceedings meeting international fair trial standards without resort to the death penalty. I call on you to immediately and unconditionally release all those convicted and sentenced to death, indicted, or undergoing investigations solely for the exercise of their rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly. I further urge you to provide those detained access to their families and lawyers of their choosing, protect them from further torture and other ill-treatment, and investigate torture allegations, bringing anyone found responsible to justice in fair trials. I urge you to grant independent observers access to capital trials and individuals on death row connected to protests.

Yours sincerely,



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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International has <u>documented</u> how the trials of individuals for capital offenses in connection with the "Woman Life Freedom" uprising have borne no resemblance to meaningful judicial proceedings. Authorities have barred individuals from accessing any lawyers during the investigation phase and have also prevented independently appointed lawyers from attending all court hearings and accessing their clients' casefiles.

The latest known death sentences in connection to the "Woman Life Freedom" uprising were imposed in mid-November 2024 against six individuals in the "Ekbatan" case. They were convicted of murder by Branch 13 of Criminal Court One in Tehran. The six are: Alireza Bamerzpournak, Alireza Kafaei, Amir Mohammad Khosheghbal, Hossein Nemati, Milad Armoun and Navid Najaran. According to a report by BBC Persian, some of the six men were subjected to torture and other ill-treatment to obtain forced "confessions". Their appeal is pending before the Supreme Court. The same BBC Persian report stated that Milad Armoun, Navid Najaran, and two others who were acquitted of murder charges in the criminal court case, namely Mohammad Mehdi and Hosseini Mehdi Imani, are also facing trial on capital charges before a Revolutionary Court for the same underlying allegations.

To date, the authorities have arbitrarily executed at least 10 people in connection with the uprising after grossly unfair trials marred by allegations of the use of torture and other ill-treatment to obtain "evidence". **Reza (Gholamreza) Rasaei**, a 34-year-old member of the oppressed Kurdish and Yaresan ethnic and religious minorities in Iran was <u>arbitrarily executed</u> in secret on August 6, 2024. According to information provided to Amnesty International by an informed source, the authorities did not give prior notice to Reza Rasaei, his family, or lawyer.

In the aftermath of the "Woman Life Freedom" uprising, the Iranian authorities have intensified their use of the death penalty to instill fear among the population and tighten their grip on power. In 2023, authorities carried out at least 853 executions, marking a 48% increase from 2022. Of these, seven were protest-related: Mohammad Mehdi Karami and Seyed Mohammad Hosseini in January; Majid Kazemi, Saleh Mirhashemi, and Saeed Yaghoubi in May; Milad Zohrevand in November— all in relation to the 2022 uprising; and Kamran Rezaei in November in relation to the November 2019 nationwide protests. The use of the death penalty has disproportionately impacted Iran's oppressed Baluchi ethnic minority, who constitute about 5% of Iran's population, yet accounted for 20% of all executions in 2023. In 2024, the Iranian authorities have continued their execution spree, including against ethnic minorities and dissidents.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: April 19, 2025

NAME AND PREFFERED PRONOUN: Fazel Bahramian, Manouchehr Mehman Navaz, Mehran Bahramian, Mohammad Ghobadlou, Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkouri, Reza (Gholamreza) Rasaei, Saeed Shirazi, Abolfazl Mehri Hossein Hajilou, Milad Armoun, Alireza Kafaei, Amir Mohammad Khosheghbal, Navid Najaran, Hossein Nemati, Alireza Bamerzpournak, Mehrab (Mehran) Abdullahzadeh (all he/him).

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA**: <a href="https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-risk-of-protest-related-executions-after-unfair-trials-iran-103-22/">https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-risk-of-protest-related-executions-after-unfair-trials-iran-103-22/</a>