

URGENT ACTION

SIX MEN AT RISK OF EXECUTION AFTER GROSSLY UNFAIR TRIAL

Six men - Abolhassan Montazer, Akbar (Shahrokh) Daneshvarkar, Babak Alipour, Mohammad Taghavi Sangdehi, Pouya Ghobadi, and Vahid Bani Amerian - are at risk of execution in Iran. In October 2024, Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court of Tehran convicted them of “armed rebellion against the state” (baghi) and sentenced them to death following a grossly unfair trial marred by allegations of torture and other ill-treatment to extract forced “confessions”.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **UA 6.25**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

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,

Six Iranian men **Abolhassan Montazer**, 65, **Akbar (Shahrokh) Daneshvarkar**, 58, **Babak Alipour**, 33, **Mohammad Taghavi Sangdehi**, 58, **Pouya Ghobadi**, 31, and **Vahid Bani Amerian**, 32, are at risk of execution after Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court of Tehran convicted them of “armed rebellion against the state” (baghi) following a grossly unfair trial in October 2024 on allegations of being affiliated with a banned opposition group, the People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI). The men have repeatedly denied all accusations of taking arms against the state. According to informed sources, agents subjected the men to torture and other ill-treatment at the time of arrest and/or during interrogations including through repeated beatings, floggings, restricting access to toilet facilities, prolonged solitary confinement and death threats at gunpoint. They are all held in Evin prison, and an appeal to the Supreme Court remains pending.

According to information obtained by Amnesty International, during trial, several of the men and their lawyers told the court that forced “confessions” were extracted under torture and other ill-treatment and could not be relied upon as evidence.

I urge you to immediately halt any plans to execute Abolhassan Montazer, Akbar (Shahrokh) Daneshvarkar, Babak Alipour, Mohammad Taghavi Sangdehi, Pouya Ghobadi, and Vahid Bani Amerian, quash their convictions and death sentences, and release them as their detention is arbitrary due to severely grave violations of their fair trial rights. I further urge you to provide them with access to their families and lawyers, protect them from further torture and other ill-treatment, and investigate torture allegations.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

According to informed sources, security agents beat **Vahid Bani Amerian** during his arrest in Tehran on December 22, 2023, leading to eye injuries, bleeding and bruising. He was then transferred to section 209 of Evin prison, where he was held in prolonged solitary confinement, in violation of the absolute prohibition against torture and ill-treatment, for two months. For the first two weeks after his arrest, Vahid Bani Amerian's family were denied information about his fate and whereabouts, thereby subjecting him to enforced disappearance, a crime under international law. **Abolhassan Montazer** was also arrested on December 22, 2023 in Tehran together with Vahid Bani Amerian and transferred to Evin prison, where he was held section 209. According to information obtained by Amnesty International, Abolhassan Montazer was also beaten during arrest and subsequently experienced severe physical pain. While held in section 209, agents subjected him to harsh interrogations; held him in a cell without sufficient heating during the winter season of Iran and denied him access to adequate healthcare for his ongoing pain. **Babak Alipour** was arrested on December 27, 2023 in Tehran. On February 23, 2024, **Pouya Ghobadi** and **Mohammad Taghavi Sangdehi** were arrested by border forces in Chaldoran, West Azerbaijan province, while they were attempting to irregularly cross the border out of the country. Prior to his arrest, Pouya Ghobadi was serving an "internal exile" sentence from a previous case far from his family. On February 28, 2024, both men were transferred from Maku prison, West Azerbaijan province, to Evin prison. Pouya Ghobadi was held in section 209 of Evin prison for three months undergoing interrogations. Mohammad Taghavi Sangdehi was held in section 209 for 82 days between February 29 and May 22, 2024 undergoing interrogations, and again from July 2 to December 14, 2024. Following his arrest and while held in section 209, **Akbar (Shahrokh) Daneshvarkar** was flogged by agents, according to an informed source.

During the trial before Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court, the men repeatedly denied all accusations of taking arms against the state. On multiple occasions, several defendants and/or defense lawyers told the court that forced "confessions" were obtained under torture and other ill-treatment. In addition to the death sentences, Abolhassan Montazer, Akbar (Shahrokh) Daneshvarkar, Babak Alipour, Mohammad Taghavi Sangdehi, and Vahid Bani Amerian were also convicted of national security related offenses and sentenced to imprisonment. Pouya Ghobadi was sentenced to a prison term on a charge related to attempting to irregularly leave the country.

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. In 2024, the Iranian authorities continued their execution spree, including against dissidents and ethnic minorities. They also issued convictions and death sentences following grossly unfair trials held before Revolutionary Courts.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: April 30, 2025

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Abolhassan Montazer, Akbar (Shahrokh) Daneshvarkar, Babak Alipour, Mohammad Taghavi Sangdehi, Pouya Ghobadi, and Vahid Bani Amerian (all he/him)