



The Honorable Volker Türk
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais Wilson
52, Rue des Pâquis
Geneva 1201
Switzerland

3 December 2024

By Email

Dear High Commissioner,

We are writing to you on behalf of the International Committee in Search of Justice (ISJ), which is supported by over 4,000 cross-party lawmakers from both sides of the Atlantic. We are deeply concerned about the recent rulings by the Iranian judiciary, which has sentenced six political prisoners—Abolhassan Montazer (65), Pouya Ghobadi (32), Vahid Bani-Amerian (32), Babak Alipour (33), Ali Akbar Daneshvarkar (57), and Mohammad Taghavi (58)—to execution on spurious charges including "membership in the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK)," "collusion and conspiracy against national security," "armed rebellion against the government," "forming a group to disrupt national security," and "destruction of public property using a launcher."

These individuals have been subjected to months of interrogation and torture, with their sentences handed down by Judge Iman Afshari of the Revolutionary Court, Branch 26, in Tehran. This same court also sentenced Mojtaba and Ali Taghavi, brothers of Mohammad Taghavi, to imprisonment and exile purely due to their familial ties, indicating a severe and concerning pattern of guilt by association within Iran's judicial processes.

It is important to note that these sentences come on the heels of previous unjust death sentences imposed on four other political prisoners, Behrouz Ehsani (70), Mehdi Hassani (48), Mohammad Javad Vafaie Sani (29), and Shahab Nad-Ali Jozani (42), also on the pretext of their affiliation with the PMOI/MEK.

The regime under Ali Khamenei continues to use executions as a tactic to suppress dissent and prevent the burgeoning civil unrest that seeks the end of the ruling theocracy. Indeed, in a dramatic rise in executions, no fewer than 541 people,

including 17 women, have been hanged since the regime's new president Masoud Pezeshkian took office in August. However, such actions have only fueled the resolve of Iran's citizens, particularly its youth, to strive for a change.

Given the gravity and immediacy of the situation, we urgently call upon the European Union and its member states to take immediate action. As Prof. Javaid Rehman, the then-UN Special Rapporteur on Iran, highlighted in his final report in July 2024, the culture of impunity and lack of decisive action regarding the atrocity crimes, including crimes against humanity and genocide committed by the Iranian regime in the 1980s—such as the massacre of 30,000 political prisoners in 1988—has only emboldened the regime to continue its atrocities, including those we bring to your attention today.

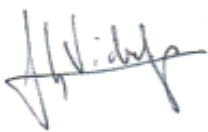
In this light, we urge you to engage with the United Nations Security Council, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Human Rights Council, and other relevant bodies to issue an unequivocal public condemnation of these sentences and to press for:

1. The immediate halting of these executions.
2. The unconditional release of all political prisoners in Iran.

The UN has always stood as a beacon for human rights and democratic values, and at this critical moment, your leadership can help prevent a grave injustice and potentially save the lives of those who are merely exercising their right to freedom of expression and association.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your swift action and response.

Yours sincerely,



Alejo Vidal-Quadras

President, International Committee in Search of Justice (ISJ)

Vice-President of the European Parliament (1999 - 2014)

Struan Stevenson



Chair ISJ Committee on the Protection of Political Freedoms in Iran,

President of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Iraq (2009 - 2014),

Chairman of Friends of a Free Iran Intergroup (2004 - 2014)

Paulo Casaca



Member of the European Parliament (1999 - 2009),
Former Chair of European Parliament's delegation for relations with the NATO
Parliamentary Assembly,
Founder and Executive Director of the "South Asia Democratic Forum"
Founder of the international co-operation association ARCHumankind

About ISJ: International Committee In Search of Justice (ISJ) was initially formed in 2008 as an informal group of EU parliamentarians to seek justice for the Iranian democratic opposition. In 2014 it was registered as a non-profit NGO in Brussels expanding its membership beyond elected parliamentarians to former officials and other dignitaries with an interest to promote human rights, freedom, democracy, peace and stability. **P:** ISJ, Rue d'Arlon 63, B-1040 Brussels **T:** +32 2 400 1071

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