

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 AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Head of judiciary, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei

c/o Embassy of Iran to the European Union, Avenue Franklin Roosevelt No. 15, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium

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, amid grave concerns about the imposition of death sentences on more individuals as authorities arrested and indicted thousands in connection to the “Woman Life Freedom” uprising. Among them are **Fazel Bahramian, Manouchehr Mehman Navaz, Mehran Bahramian, Milad Armoun, Alireza Kafei, Amir Mohammad Khosheghbal, Navid Najaran, Hossein Nemati, Alireza Bamerzpournak and Mehrab (Mehran) Abdollahzadeh** – currently under sentence of death and at risk of execution following grossly unfair trials involving convictions on charges of “enmity against God” (moharebeh), “armed rebellion against the state” (baghi) and “murder”. At least one other person – **Mojahed (Abbas) Kourkouri** – is facing further proceedings after the Supreme Court overturned his conviction and death sentence in December 2024. On 6 August 2024, authorities arbitrarily executed **Reza (Gholamreza) Rasaei** in secret without prior notice to him, his family or lawyer, according to an informed source. Amnesty International is aware of at least two others – **Saeed Shirazi** and **Abolfazl Mehri Hossein Hajilou** – who were tried on capital charges.*

The aforementioned individuals have faced grossly unfair trials before Revolutionary Courts and/or Criminal Courts in different parts of the country including in the provinces of Tehran, Esfahan, Khuzestan and West Azerbaijan. Authorities violated their right to a fair trial, including the right to: adequate defence and access to lawyers of their choosing; the presumption of innocence; remain silent; meaningfully challenge the legality of their detentions; and receive a fair, public hearing. 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 aforementioned 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 offence 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 and, more broadly, immediately establish an official moratorium on executions with a view of abolishing the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International has [documented](#) how the trials of individuals for capital offences 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. Courts have used torture-tainted “confessions” to issue convictions.

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, so named after the area in Tehran where a security agent was reported to have been killed during the uprising. They were convicted of murder by Branch 13 of Criminal Court One in Tehran, according to social media posts by Babak Paknia, a lawyer representing several of the convicted individuals. The six are: Alireza Bamerzpournak, Alireza Kafaei, Amir Mohammad Khosheghbal, Hossein Nemati, Milad Armoun and Navid Najaran. According to a report by BBC Persian, a Persian language media channel based outside of Iran, some of the six men were subjected to torture and other ill-treatment to obtain forced “confessions”. Their appeal is pending before to 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 [arbitrarily executed](#) in secret on 6 August 2024 in Dizel Abad prison, Kermanshah province. 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. Within hours of informing his family of his execution, the authorities cruelly forced them to bury him in a remote area far from his home and in the presence of security forces.

In the aftermath of the “Woman Life Freedom” uprising, the Iranian authorities have intensified their use of the death penalty to instil 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. Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception. The death penalty is a violation of the right to life as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Persian and English.

You can also write in your own language.

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

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PREFERRED 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) Abdollahzadeh (all he/him).

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/8077/2024/en/>.