



Mr. Volker Türk,  
High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

Cc. Mai Sato, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran

December 2, 2024

Dear Mr. Volker Türk,

The alarming rise in executions under Iranian President Massoud Pezeshkian (540 since July) aims to terrorize a population very resentful of suppression and poverty. In parallel, Iranian authorities are intensifying their crackdown on political opponents.

Six political prisoners—Abolhassan Montazer, Pouya Ghobadi, Vahid Bani-Amrian, Babak Alipour, Ali Akbar Daneshvarkar, and Mohammad Taghavi—have been sentenced to death recently, following months of interrogation and torture. The charges against them include “membership in the People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK),” “collusion and conspiracy against national security,” “armed rebellion,” and “forming a group to disrupt national security.”

On September 17, three PMOI supporters —Behrouz Ehsani, Mehdi Hassani, and boxing champion Javad Vafaie— were also sentenced to death on similar charges, including “rebellion,” “corruption on earth,” and “gathering classified information.”

Further intensifying the crackdown, Judge Dehghani announced on October 22 that all assets of the PMOI are to be identified, confiscated, and subject to legal prosecution. These actions coincide with the show trial of 104 PMOI members, underscoring the regime’s desperation amidst growing instability.

We urgently call on you and the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Iran, Ms. Mai Sato, to respond firmly to this appalling situation. Immediate action is required to save the lives of these political opponents at risk of execution. This regime is sensitive to international pressure, which can make it backtrack. This is why we also stress the urgent need for an international fact-finding mission to visit Iranian prisons and meet with detainees, especially political prisoners.

### Details

- Abolhassan Montazer, 65, an architecture graduate and a political prisoner from the 1980s, has been arrested and imprisoned multiple times, including in 2018 and 2020. He was last arrested in January 2024 and suffers from heart, lung, and kidney diseases, and arthritis.
- Pouya Ghobadi, 32, an electrical engineer, was arrested in March 2024. He had previously been arrested twice.
- Vahid Bani-Amrian, 32, holding a master's degree in management, was arrested in January 2024. He has spent a total of four years in prison across multiple arrests since 2017.
- Babak Alipour, 33, a law graduate, was arrested in January 2024. He had earlier been detained in November 2018 in Rasht and served four years in prison.
- Ali Akbar Daneshvarkar, 57, a civil engineer, was arrested in January 2024.
- Mohammad Taghavi, 58, a political prisoner from the 1980s and 1990s, was previously arrested in 2020 and imprisoned for three years on charges of association with the PMOI/MEK.





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Sincerely,

**Friends of a Free Iran Committee in Nordic Countries**

**KIMMO SASI** Co-President FOFIAF  
Former minister of Europe and Foreign Trade –  
Finland

**GEIR H. HAARDE** Co-President FOFIAF  
Former Prime Minister – Iceland

**STEFAN GUDSTEINSON** Co-President FOFIAF  
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