

Australian Supporters of Democracy in Iran

December 6, 2024,

Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: foreign.minister@dfat.gov.au

Condemn the death sentences against six more political prisoners in Iran

Dear Minister,

Thankyou again for your announcement on October 15 of sanctions on five Iranian individuals contributing to Iran's missile program.

We write today to protest in the strongest terms at the [new death sentences](#) imposed on six members of the Peoples Mojahedin Organisation of Iran (PMOI) by Judge Iman Afshari, head of the Revolutionary Court, Branch 26, in Tehran, on November 30, 2024.

The six political prisoners are Abolhassan Montazer (65), Pouya Ghobadi (32), Vahid Bani-Amrian (32), Babak Alipour (33), Ali Akbar Daneshvarkar (57), and Mohammad Taghavi (58). The death sentence comes after months of interrogation and torture following their arrest in January this year. The charges against them include "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." All but Mr Daneshvarkar had been arrested before, some many times.

The same court also sentenced Mojtaba and Ali Taghavi, brothers of Mohammad Taghavi, to imprisonment and exile, solely because they are his brothers.

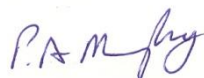
In September 2024, PMOI supporters Behrouz Ehsani and Mehdi Hassani were [sentenced to death](#) by the [same court and judge](#). The death sentence of [PMOI supporter Mohammad Javad Vafa'i Thani](#) was upheld for the third time. This wave of repression coincides with a spike in executions under the presidency of Massoud Pezeshkian, with more than 250 executions since July 2024.

We call upon Australia to use its diplomatic channels, including at the United Nations, to press the Iranian authorities to immediately halt all executions, particularly of these political prisoners. Furthermore, we urge Australia to lead a strong international response by rallying the global community to hold the Iranian regime accountable for its gross human rights violations.

Sincerely,



Dr Meredith Burgmann
Committee Member



Peter Murphy
Co-Secretary

Cc: Antonio Guterres UN Secretary General; Volker Turk, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights volker.turk@un.org ohchr-infodesk@un.org; Senator Jordan Steele-John; Senator Claire Chandler; Andrew Wilkie MHR; UN Special Rapporteur on Iran, Dr Mai Sato, hrc-sr-iran@un.org; Head of the Fact-Finding Mission for Iran, Ms Sahra Hossein sarahossain@gmail.com; DFAT Desk; Julia Dean.

P. O. Box 73 MORTDALE NSW 2223

peter_murphy1_au@bigpond.com – Tel: 0418 312 301 / iran4democracy@gmail.com – Tel: 0415 536 443

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Dr Meredith Burgmann, *President of the New South Wales Legislative Council 1999 – 2007*

Ms Kylea Tink, *Member of the Australia House of Representatives*

Mr Rowan Ramsey, *Member of the Australia House of Representatives*

Mr Michael Sukkar, *Member of the Australia House of Representatives, Minister for Homelessness, Social and Community Housing 2020 – 2022, Assistant Treasurer 2019 - 2022*

Ms Penny Sharpe, *Leader of the New South Wales Government in the Legislative Council, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, Minister for Energy and Climate Change*

Ms Sonia Hornery, *Deputy Speaker, Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly*

Ms Anna Watson, *Member of the NSW Legislative Assembly*

Ms Lynda Voltz, *Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly*

Dr Hugh McDermott, *Member of the New South Wales Parliament, Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney-General*

Ms Charishma Kaliyanda, *Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly*

Ms Claire Moore, *former Senator 2002 - 2019*

Mr Doug Cameron, *former Senator 2008 - 2019*

Mr John Williams, *former Senator 2008 – 2019*

Mr Eric Abetz, *Member of the Tasmanian Legislative Assembly. Minister for Transport in Tasmania, former Senator 1994 – 2022, Minister for Employment 2013-2015, Leader of the Government in the Senate 2010 – 2015, Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation 2006 - 2007, Special Minister of State 2001-2006*

Mr Kelvin Thomson, *former Member of the Australia House of Representatives 1996 – 2016*

Ms Sylvia Hale, *former Member of the New South Wales Legislative Council 2003 - 2010*

Mr Don Nardella, *former Member of the Victorian Legislative Council 1992-1999, Legislative Assembly 1999-2018, Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly 2014 - 2017*

Rev Brian Medway, *President of Crosslink Network Australia*

Rev. Bill Crews, *Bill Crews Foundation*

Mr Stephen Pitt-Walker, *lawyer, board advisor, management consultant*

Fr Claude Mostowik, *National President of Pax Christi Australia*

Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans, *former Member of the New South Wales Legislative Council*

Dr Jocelyne A. Scutt, *lawyer, academic, writer and commentator*

Dr Nina Burridge, *Honorary Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Technology, Sydney*

Mr Phil Glendenning, *President of Edmund Rice Center International*

Professor Stuart Rees AM, *human rights activist, author, founder of the Sydney Peace Foundation*

Mr Richard Walsham, *former New South Wales Teachers Federation and Australian Education Union officer, peace campaigner.*