

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA



Dear Prime Minister,

12.12.2022

Call to action: *Second Execution of unarmed protestors by the Islamic Republic.*

Mr. Mohsen Shekari, 23, was arrested by the Islamic Republic security forces at a demonstration on 25th of September 2022. He was executed on the 8th of December 2022.

In a sham trial, he was charged with enmity towards God and corruption on Earth. He was denied proper legal representation or process and there is clear evidence to indicate that Mr. Shekari was tortured in custody as his lifeless body has all the bruises and marks associated with torture.

Following his arrest, the authorities contacted Mr. Shekari's family advising that if they agreed not to publicise his arrest, the revolutionary court will look favourably upon his case.

The Islamic Republic is charging many of the young demonstrators with enmity towards God and, or corruption on Earth. Under the legislation of the Islamic Republic, both of these charges carry a death sentence. These nonsensical charges have been applied to many cases as default. The court cases are summary, with no due process. The demonstrators are tortured, many are raped and they do not have legal representatives. Confessions are extracted under torture or with a threat to the life of their loved ones, including their children.

There are an estimated 18,000 protestors in custody. Recently, the Islamic Republic parliamentary members unanimously voted for the immediate execution of the arrested protestors.

Many more have been kidnapped off the streets or arrested at home or at work. The authorities are refusing to acknowledge these arrests or cooperate with anxious and desperate relatives and their whereabouts and fate remain unknown.

The authorities have managed to persuade many families to remain silent and they have not publicised the arrest of their sons and daughters, in a desperate hope that for once the authorities may not be deceiving them. Therefore, the estimated number of protestors in custody is an underestimation and the true figure may be many thousands more.

International communities and democracies have been outraged by the brutal crackdown afforded to unarmed protestors, resulting in over 500 deaths, including the deaths of over 60 minors. The U.N Human Rights Council voted unanimously to set up a fact-finding mission to determine the gross breaches of Human Rights by the Islamic Republic and on the 14th of December, a decision will be made regarding the Islamic Republic's membership at the Commission on the Status of Women.

Despite international condemnations, pressure, and formal investigations, the Islamic Republic executed a young man based on the crimes that are associated with 'enmity towards God and corruption on Earth', in a summary trial deprived of basic legal due process and legal representation, and most probably under stress, duress and torture.

The Islamic Republic's ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Office. This summons and the subsequent discussion the Foreign Office had with the ambassador has had 'nil' effect as another young 23-year-old, Mr. Majid Reza Rahnavard was executed on 12.12.2022. His family was not informed of the execution and he was denied the last visit. The authorities have now buried his body and informed his parents of his resting place so that they would not have to face another potential anti-government protest during the burial.

The theocratic regime in Tehran may now focus its attention on protestors in custody that have not been publicised on social media and are therefore nameless and faceless.

There are now over 30 protestors in captivity including minors and medical staff who are in imminent danger of execution as they have been sentenced to death by hanging.

The UK and all democracies that value Human Rights, rule of law, international law, and the sanctity of life need to apply maximum pressure on the regime in Tehran to halt, with immediate effect, any further executions.

Prime minister, the UK government's outrage, condemnation, and new sanctions have not deterred the Islamic Republic as the murder of unarmed civilians, torture, and rape in custody, and now executions have continued.

With regret, the second execution is an unmistakable indication that verbal warnings, U.N investigations, international condemnation and outrage have no effect on a theocratic dictatorship which has shown little if any respect for international law and normal international behaviour as well as Human Rights.

This unacceptable behaviour should also be considered in any future Iran-nuclear negotiations as this regime will not respect contracts or non-binding agreements.

We ask for immediate action to be considered that will deter the Islamic Republic's ability from killing unarmed civilians with impunity;

- 1) Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) to be prescribed to the list of terror organisations. Recent concerns were raised regarding the IRGC and Islamic Republic's attempt to intimidate and assassinate ten Iranian journalists and opposition members based in the U.K.
- 2) The expulsion of the Islamic Republic embassy staff as well as scrutinizing the license of the Islamic Republic's 'Islamic Centres' in the UK, as these centres have a representative of Ayatollah Khamenei operating freely within the U.K, are actions that may also be considered.
- 3) Sanctioning Iranian-registered aircraft from U.K. airspace.

Prime minister, we ask for your government to take immediate firm and decisive action to prevent the deaths of many thousands of innocent protestors in captivity.

Kind regards,

Association of Iranian Human Rights and Allies