



*Mission Permanente
de la République Islamique d'Iran
Après des Nations Unies
et des autres Organisations Internationales à Genève*

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Ref. 2050/2058324

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the Joint Communication from Special Procedures No. AL IRN 5/2024 regarding Ms. Sepideh Rashnu dated 21 March 2024, has the honor to transmit herewith comments from the High Council for Human Rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran in that regard.

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Emails: registry@ohchr.org

3. Pursuant the sending her case to the competent court, her first hearing court was held on 27 August, 2022, in public, with the presence of the accused, her family and her lawyer, and the order of temporary arrest was dismissed and bail was ordered. The accused was released on 27 August, 2022, and the case was examined in numerous sessions, in accordance with all the regulations, rules and standards of international proceedings contained in Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including the appealability of decisions, the examining of accusations by multiple judges, the principle of acquittal, etc. Upon receiving the last legal defenses of the accused and her lawyers in the court hearings, the court, taking into account the existing laws, all the contents of the case and definite assumptions, the lack of effective defense by the accused, which all indicate the accused's attempt to propagate against the religious teachings and moral security of the citizens, declared the end of the proceedings, and considered the guilt as to be certain, and, on 8 December, 2022, issued the verdict and sentenced the mentioned person to three years and seven months of Ta'aziri imprisonment for the crime of acting against the security, and eight months of Ta'aziri imprisonment for the crime of propaganda against the State, and payment of 10,000,000 Rials to the government for the offense of not observing Hijab code of dress.

4. In the light of Islamic affection and her lack of criminal record, expression of remorse as well as her written submission to the issued decision, the aforementioned conviction was suspended for a period of five years.

5. Despite the suspension of the sentence, and her written remorse in court, etc., she still committed several offenses in continuation of her previous norm-breaking actions; and, thus, in accordance with Article 54 of the Islamic Penal Code, the earlier court decision on suspension of her punishment was annulled and the case of the accused was sent to the execution branch of the court, on 20 February, 2024, for the execution of the suspended sentence.

6. Following the finalization of the verdict, the case was forwarded to the Execution Branch; and the accused sent an appeal to the State Supreme Court for resumption of the proceedings. Upon the prescription by the Supreme Court branch, on the resumption of the proceedings, the execution of the conviction was stopped and, at the same time, the case was under re-examination in the provincial court of appeals.

7. The arrest and conviction of Ms. Sepideh Rashno had nothing to do with the issue of civil activity and human rights, and she was merely convicted for committing actions which are anticipated by law as crimes.

8. The allegation of torture and coercion of the convicts, during the arrest and the trial process, to make confessions is a pure fabrication of lies. Hence, so far, neither a complaint nor a subsequent court case has been filed in this regard. In this connection, it should be pointed out that according to Article 38 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, any kind of torture is prohibited in the country; and according to Articles 570, 578, 579 and 587 of the Iranian Penal Code and the paragraphs of Article 1 of the Law on Respecting Legitimate Freedoms and Protecting Citizen Rights, the perpetrators and other misbehaviors will be subject to heavy punishment. Furthermore, in order to monitor the proper implementation of this law, according to paragraph 15 of the Executive Instructions of the Central Supervisory Board, in cooperation with the provincial Supervisory Boards, the necessary supervision and inspections are conducted to deal with any violations or commit of offenses in this connection. In addition, any possible confession or any probable information obtained from the accused, due to torture and mistreatment, is invalid. Therefore, if a complaint is filed by the accused along with the presentation of evidence and documentation, the judicial system shall examine the matter on the basis of the existing laws and regulations, and, if proven, it shall duly deal with the perpetrator or perpetrators.

9. In the course of her detention (45 days), the mentioned person had full access to health and treatment services, both inside and outside the institution without any restrictions; and due to [REDACTED], she visited the relevant health centers, in cases, and received services.

10. It is also necessary to mention that the accused had access to a lawyer of her choice in all stages of the legal proceedings, and her lawyers defended their client in many cases, either in person or by presenting a bill to the court.

11. At the time of committing the attributed charges and her arrest, the aforementioned person was an undergraduate student, and due to her educational problems and according to educational regulations, she was convicts suspended by the relevant educational institution. Therefore, any allegation on her expulsion or suspension from the educational institution due to her judicial conviction is a pure fabrication of lie, because according to the existing laws, no court issues an order to expel or suspend a person from education.
