



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

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Ref. 2050/2802162

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 ALIRN 18 / 2025 dated 27 November 2025 enclosed with the Joint Communication from Special Procedures, has the honor to transmit herewith, comments from the High Council for Human Rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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.

Geneva, 26 January 2026



Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
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No:

Date:

In the Name of God

In response to the correspondence from mandate holders of the UN Human Rights Council (reference No. AL IRN 18/2025), dated 27 November 2025, concerning the cases Mr. Taher Naghavi and [REDACTED], the following points are provided for clarification:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] who holds a PhD in Law, has traveled back and forth to one of the neighboring countries to the Islamic Republic of Iran since 2001. In January 2016, he met the intelligence officer of that country for the first time and after exchanging phone numbers, he was recruited by the same intelligence service and started cooperating with them. The cooperation continued till 2024 (for 8 years).

His interest and activity in the field of ethnic incidents (the main motivation of the defendant for espionage), his occupation as a lawyer, his career as a university professor in law as well as some other factors, made him a suitable case for the Foreign Service and as a result subjected him to their intelligence and operational abuse (in fields including ethnic elements and incidents inside the country, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and other military organizations of the country, Karabakh conflict, border posts, analysis of the news and the information about Iran, Armenia, presenting the Iranians to the foreigner intelligence officers, financial support of the ethnic activities in the country, identifying the personnel belonging to ethnic groups, etc.). Regarding the close cooperation of the named intelligence service with the Zionist Regime Service, some mandates of [REDACTED] and the information collection conducted by him, including about military bodies, were on behalf of the Zionist Regime.

In the course of the investigation, taking into account the reasons obtained, including 1) the reports of executive officers, 2) the defendant's explicit and realistic



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confession about his cooperation with the intelligence service of the named foreign country and his meetings with intelligence officers, 3) financial and intellectual support offered to the defendant by the named intelligence services, 4) confidential documents of the Ministry of Intelligence of the Islamic Republic of Iran testifying the relation of the defendant with foreigner intelligence officers and transferring confidential information to them, 5) photos regarding the meetings of the defendant and the agents of the intelligence service of the named foreign country, 6) the monographs made by the other defendant in the case, summons for trial and indictment was issued for the defendant and the case was referred to the competent court for hearing.

Since May 5, 2025, [REDACTED] has been in detention, based on a temporary detention order. So far, 3 trial session has been held for his case, but no verdict has been issued.

It is worth mentioning that from the beginning of the proceedings, [REDACTED] has been prosecuted based on the accusation of espionage, and it was not the case of “propaganda against the system”. The charge of espionage, which was clarified to the defendant, is not related to his career and there is no report in his case file showing the alleged issues (morality police, woman, life, freedom, open letter, etc.) and these issues are not among his charges.

The prison isolation section doesn't have solitary confinement cells and the act of isolation is necessary for all new comer prisoners regarding contagious illnesses. No order regarding keeping [REDACTED] in isolation was issued. Regarding his visits, after the investigation finished, the order on lifting the ban on visits with family members was issued. According to the regulations of the prisons, meeting immediate family is allowed.

Based on the survey conducted by SAMP System (system of managing the case files), [REDACTED] has so far declared his legal representation in 67 branches of the judicial authorities, none of which are related to alleged crimes (whether security-related or other related issues). Most of the case files in which he was the



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lawyer, were routine cases (including cancellation of retirement order, cheque, crimes against modesty, and divorce). His only major legal case is for one of his relatives accused of acid attack.

Regarding the physical and mental condition of the defendant, no objections or complaints have been raised by the defendant's lawyers so far, but as a precaution, medical examinations were conducted in the prison detention center by judicial orders, and no specific illness has been reported.

Given the scope of the crimes and the long-term espionage and anti-security activities committed by [REDACTED] the defendant is considered to be a type of employee of a foreign intelligence service. Given the long-term nature of his cooperation with a foreign spy service and the inclusion of Article 286 of the Islamic Penal Code, and considering the criminal title of the defendant, taking into account Article 131 of the Islamic Penal Code, the criminal title should have been introduced as Severe (assistance in corruption on earth with the aiding and abetting and centralization of a foreign service). In accordance with Article 289 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the criminal title was changed and clarified.

Mr. Taher Naghavi

Since 2011, Mr. Taher Naghavi has been active in the fields of extreme ethnocentricity, and since 2015, when he entered university, he has officially continued his activities in favor of Pan-Turkist separatist movements and has committed crimes related to Iran's national security. The defendant's relationship with the contact of the intelligence service of a neighboring country and the leader of a terrorist group began in 2010 and continued until his arrest. Finally, the defendant was arrested in Karaj on February 6, 2024 in accordance with a judicial order, and after being informed of the charges, an investigation process was initiated against him.

During the investigation, the he confessed to collaborating with the aforementioned spy agent in the field of separatism, writing Pan-Turkist articles on the idea of creating security tensions in the northwestern regions of the country, and receiving orders from the intelligence service of the foreign country to accept the case of a number of security suspects of the Pan-Turkist movement, accepting the request of the agent of the foreign intelligence service to collect military information during the war between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia, especially going to Payam Airport in Karaj and taking pictures of military equipment stationed at the airport, etc.

After conducting the initial investigation and after one month, on March 17, 2024, Mr. Naghavi was transferred to the general ward. (It should be noted that the allegation that he was interrogated for 40 days, including beatings or harassment, is not only unfounded, but according to regulations, those who commit such acts will be subject to disciplinary and criminal penalties.)

Based on the undeniable evidence and documents in the case, including connections with the leaders of separatist and subversive groups, connections and cooperation with agents of foreign intelligence services, publishing separatist material on virtual space, sending military information as well as information about military personnel to those associated with foreign intelligence services, and the defendant's explicit confessions, after receiving the final defenses from the investigator, the investigation was declared closed and a final order for summons to trial and his indictment was issued on charges of association and collusion to commit a crime against national security and propaganda against the system. The case was sent to the competent court on May 15, 2024.

The acts committed by Mr. Taher Naghavi within the framework of the criminal titles are as follows:

- Gathering and colluding with the intention of disrupting the security of the country through communication with the leader of the terrorist group



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Gamo (the so-called Southern Azerbaijan National Army), in accordance with Article 610 of the Islamic Penal Code;

- Membership in a group with the aim of disrupting the security of the country through active membership in the separatist and hostile group [REDACTED] according to Article 499 of the Islamic Penal Code;
- Slandering officials, in accordance with Article 697 of the Islamic Penal Code;
- Propaganda activity against the Islamic Republic of Iran and in favor of groups and organizations that disrupt the system, according to Article 500 of the Islamic Penal Code;
- Spreading hatred through insults to Iranian ethnic groups (Armenians, Talesh, Persian speakers) according to Article 499 of the Islamic Penal Code.

It should be noted that Taher Naghavi, along with several other convicts related to the aforementioned case, have recently embarked on a hunger strike for the umpteenth time with specific goals and intentions, including being released from prison sentences, and has engaged in unconstructive actions as follows.

- Accusing the Judiciary of lacking independence;
- Accusing the Ministry of Intelligence of fabricating cases;
- Publishing statements and interviews with hostile and divergent media;
- Pursuing and continuing criminal acts from inside prison by taking actions such as continuing communications with Pan-Turkist elements and insisting on pursuing the process of taking action against the national security and territorial integrity of the country, the latest example of which was his association with a number of convicts in the case in order to declare support for the formation of a united front of 9 Pan-Turkist separatist groups.

It should be noted that Mr. Naghavi had a lawyer throughout the investigation and trial, and his attorney was his wife, [REDACTED]. Despite the fact that

he has committed numerous crimes under the above criminal headings, he has been sentenced to 5 years of penal imprisonment solely under the charges of gathering and colluding to commit crimes against internal and external security and propaganda against the system, with the sentence starting on February 7, 2024 and ending on February 9, 2029.

Regarding Mr. Naghavi's detention in prison and the provision of medical and health services, he was subjected to clinical monitoring upon arrival and, like other detainees and convicts, had free access to medical and health services within the institution during his detention and imprisonment. In this regard, due to his history of [REDACTED] he has been visited many times by an endocrinologist and prescribed medication. There have been no restrictions on sending him outside the prison to pursue medical treatment. On June 19, 2024, Mr. Naghavi was sent to a hospital outside the prison due to weakness and lethargy resulting from the hunger strike and not letting the prison medical staff intervene in any way. After receiving medical services and improving his physical condition, he was returned to the prison. On November 13, 2024, he was sent to a medical center for [REDACTED]. On March 18, 2025, he was sent to a medical center outside the prison twice for a specialized [REDACTED] and on March 25, 2025, he was sent to a medical center outside the prison three times for a specialized [REDACTED]. Currently, according to the prison's medical record, he does not have any serious physical problems. Therefore, the claim of repeated deprivation of access to hospital services and medical care is completely baseless and far from reality.

Mr. Naghavi is currently in Evin Prison. The damage caused by the Zionist regime's attacks has been repaired, and contrary to claims, there are no problems with the heating systems or the like in the prison where he is being held.

During his detention, there were no restrictions on Mr. Naghavi's access to welfare and relief facilities, and in addition to phone calls, he met with her family and lawyer 24 times.



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It is worth noting that in Evin Prison, a place called solitary confinement is not functional and used. The only restriction imposed in necessary cases, in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the regulations of the Prisons Organization of the country, is to transfer the prisoner to a multi-person suite with the necessary welfare facilities. Therefore, Mr. Naghavi's transfer to solitary confinement is not approved and such a claim is not valid.

The suspension of the Mr. Naghavi's lawyer's license as a result of non-payment of the periodic membership fee is an administrative matter related to the administrative organization of the Bar Association. In this regard, the Association, which is an independent institution, has taken action in accordance with its disciplinary and internal regulations.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that thousands of human rights defenders and political and trade union activists in Iran are working freely and within the framework of the law. No one is prosecuted simply because of belonging to a particular class, profession, group, or activity. On the other hand, the country of Iran is made up of different ethnic groups such as Kurd, Baluch, Turk, Arab, Lor, Fars, etc., all of whom are equally protected by the law. Belonging to a particular ethnic group, race, language, etc. is in no way a basis for discrimination. Therefore, allegations that these individuals were prosecuted and tried because of their political or trade union activities or because they belonged to a certain ethnic or racial group are completely unfounded. It is reiterated that the prosecution and arrest of the individuals in question has no connection to their legal profession. It is recommended that mandate holders refrain from using terms or descriptions such as Turk, Kurd, Baluch, and the like in their correspondence, biasedly suggesting that the country's regulations are discriminatory in dealing with violators.