

**NATIONS UNIES**  
**HAUT COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES**  
**AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME**

**PROCEDURES SPECIALES DU**  
**CONSEIL DES DROITS DE L'HOMME**

**Mandates of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; the Independent Expert on minority issues; the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**

**UNITED NATIONS**  
**OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS**  
**HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

**SPECIAL PROCEDURES OF THE**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

REFERENCE: UA G/SO 218/2 G/SO 214 (3-3-16) Iran (2011-16) Minorities (2005-4) G/SO 214 (33-27) G/SO 214 (53-24)  
IRN 18/2013

11 October 2013

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; Independent Expert on minority issues; Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; and Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 15/18, 17/2, 22/23, 16/6, 17/5, and 16/23.

In this connection, we would like to draw the attention of your Excellency's Government to information we have received regarding the case of Mr. **Ghazi Abbasi**, who is reportedly at risk of imminent execution in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Ghazi Abbasi was the subject of a previous communication sent to your Excellency's Government on 31 July 2013. We regret that no reply from your Excellency's Government has yet been received to this communication.

According to the new information received,

On 27 September 2013, Mr. Ghazi Abbasi, a member of the Ahwazi Arab minority, was transferred from his cell to solitary confinement in Karoun prison in Khuzestan. It is alleged that his transfer to solitary confinement indicates that he may be executed imminently, given the reported practice in the Islamic Republic of Iran to transfer individuals to solitary confinement immediately prior to the implementation of death sentences.

Without prejudging the accuracy of the information made available to us, we would like to reiterate our concerns as expressed in the previous communication that, according to the facts available to us, the execution of Mr. Ghazi Abbasi would constitute

a violation of international human rights law. We would also like to refer to the international obligations of your Excellency's Government as mentioned in the previous communication, with particular regard to the international human rights law provisions on stringent respect of due process and fair trial guarantees in cases of death penalty, and prohibition of torture and ill-treatment.

In view of the irreversibility of the punishment of the death penalty, we urge your Excellency's Government to take all steps necessary to prevent the execution of Mr. Ghazi Abbasi, which, if carried out, would be inconsistent with acceptable standards of international human rights law. We call upon your Excellency's Government not to execute Mr. Ghazi Abbasi and to commute without delay the death sentence imposed against him.

In view of the urgency of the matter, we would appreciate a response on the initial steps taken by your Excellency's Government not to execute Mr. Ghazi Abbasi, and safeguard his rights in compliance with international human rights law instruments. We would also appreciate that your Excellency's Government reply addresses the questions formulated in the communication dated 31 July 2013.

We undertake to ensure that your Excellency's Government's response is accurately included in the report we will submit to the Human Rights Council for its consideration.

While waiting for your response, we urge your Excellency's Government to take all necessary measures to guarantee that the rights and freedoms of Mr. Ghazi Abbasi are respected and, in the event that your investigations support or suggest the allegations to be correct, the accountability of any person responsible of the alleged violations should be ensured. We also request that your Excellency's Government adopt effective measures to prevent the recurrence of these acts.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

El Hadji Malick Sow  
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

Gabriela Knäul  
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers

Ahmed Shaheed  
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

IZSÁK Rita  
Independent Expert on minority issues

Christof Heyns  
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

Juan E. Méndez  
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or  
punishment