

**Mandates of 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 Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences**

REFERENCE: UA  
IRN 21/2014:

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Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; and Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 26/7, 25/24, 26/12, 25/13, and 23/25.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information we have received regarding the imminent risk of execution of Ms. **Reyhaneh Jabbari** after a trial that did not meet fair trial and due process guarantees. This case was already the subject of a joint urgent appeal dated 14 April 2014, to which we are yet to get a response.

Ms. Jabbari, was arrested on 8 July 2007 and later sentenced to death under Qisas (retribution in kind) for the murder of Mr. Morteza Abdolali Sarbandi, a physician and a member of the Iranian intelligence services, who allegedly attempted to rape her on 7 July 2007. Ms. Jabbari was reportedly subjected to torture and ill-treatment and was forced to confess to the murder. Further, she was reportedly not allowed to be assisted by a lawyer of her own choosing.

According to the new information received:

On 29 September 2014, Ms. Jabbari was reportedly transferred from Gharchak Prison in Teheran to Raja'i Shahr Prison, where she was scheduled to be executed

the next morning. Raja'i Shahr Prison authorities reportedly confirmed the scheduled execution to Ms. Jabbari's mother and asked her to go to the prison facility on 30 September to collect the body. Ms. Jabbari's execution was however delayed for 10 days and she was returned back to Garchak Prison.

While we do not wish to prejudge the accuracy of the information provided to us, we would like to express serious concerns that the execution of Ms. Jabbari could be carried out at any moment in violation of fair trial and due process guarantees, stipulated, inter alia, in article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). We would like to further express our concerns that the death penalty may have been imposed and might be carried out against Ms. Jabbari after proceedings which do not comply with a number of international human rights standards, in particular the right to a fair trial. We would also like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government our concerns relating to the continued imposition and implementation of the death penalty after trials that do not comply with the international obligations ratified by your Excellency's Government.

Moreover, we would like to remind your Excellency's Government of the absolute and non-derogable prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment as codified, inter alia, in articles 5 of the UDHR and article 7 of the ICCPR.

We would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government article 4 (c & d) of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, which notes the responsibility of States to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and, in accordance with national legislation, punish acts of violence against women, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State or by private persons. To this end, States should develop penal, civil, labour and administrative sanctions in domestic legislation to punish and redress the wrongs caused to women who are subjected to violence. Women who are subjected to violence should be provided with access to the mechanisms of justice and, as provided for by national legislation, to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered. States should, moreover, also inform women of their rights in seeking redress through such mechanisms.

In view of irreversibility of the punishment of the death penalty, we urge your Excellency's Government to take all steps necessary to prevent the execution of Ms. Jabbari, 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 her and to commute without delay the death sentence.

The full texts of the human rights instruments and standards recalled above are available on [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org) or can be provided upon request.

As it is our responsibility, under the mandates provided to us by the Human Rights Council, to seek to clarify all cases brought to our attention, we would be grateful for your observations on the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional information and any comment you may have on the above-mentioned allegations?
2. Have the family members or defense lawyer of Ms. Jabbari been informed of the imminent execution? Please also specify the legislation and measures taken to ensure that families are informed of the execution date, time and venue of death row inmates.
3. Please provide details on measure the Government is taking to prevent the execution of Ms. Jabbari.

While waiting for your response, we again urge your Excellency's Government **to take all necessary measures to prevent the execution of Ms. Jabbari**, which would, on the facts available to us, clearly violate applicable international human rights law.

Your Excellency's Government's response will be made available in a report to be presented to the Human Rights Council for its consideration.

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

Gabriela Knaul  
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

Christof Heyns  
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

Juan E. Méndez  
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Rashida Manjoo  
Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences