

**Mandates of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran**

REFERENCE:  
UA IRN 3/2017

26 January 2017

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 27/1, 25/2, 32/32, 25/18 and 28/21.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information we have received concerning the prosecution of Ms. **Raheleh Rahemipor**, a woman human rights defender.

Ms. Rahemipor is the sister of Mr. Hossein Rahemipor, whose case is under review by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. Ms. Rahemipor was the subject of previous communications by Special Procedures mandate holders on 5 August 2016 (UA IRN 23/2016) and on 22 November 2016 (UA IRN 29/2016).

According to the information received:

Ms. Raheleh Rahemipor was summoned to court once again on 22 January 2017. It is reported that the judge reiterated the same accusations made against her in the past, namely participating in illegal street protests, and providing interviews to media outlets outside Iran. Throughout the hearing, Ms. Rahemipor allegedly maintained her demand to know the fate and whereabouts of her relative.

At the end of the trial, the judge reportedly told Ms. Rahemipor and her lawyer that he would issue a verdict in one week, and that she would have 20 days to appeal it. According to the information received, the judge implied he would sentence Ms. Rahemipor.

We reiterate our serious concern at the judicial harassment of Ms. Rahemipor which appears to be directly related to her legitimate activities in defence of human rights

in Iran and, more particularly, to her claim for truth and justice regarding the case of her brother. We also express concern at the lack of evidence to justify the charges brought against her, as well as the use of national security to criminalize her legitimate exercise of the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly.

While we do not wish to prejudge the accuracy of these allegations, we would like to refer to Article 13 (3) and Article 13 (5) of the Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance; to resolution 7/12 of the Human Rights Council; to articles 19 and 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by Iran on 24 June 1975; and to the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, also known as the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, in particular articles 1, 2, 5, 6 and 12.

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.

In view of the urgency of the matter, we wish to reiterate to Your Excellency's Government, our request for information on the initial steps taken to safeguard the rights of Ms. Rahemipour, in compliance with international instruments.

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 therefore request, once again, your observations on the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional information and/or comment(s) you may have on the above-mentioned allegations.
2. Please provide information about the evidence presented to justify the application of the charges brought against Ms. Rahemipour.
3. Please provide information about how the legal basis for the charges brought against Ms. Rahemipour is compatible with Iran's obligations under international human rights law, in particular with respect to articles 19 and 21 of the ICCPR.
4. Please provide information on any measures taken to ensure the human rights of Ms. Rahemipour are protected.
5. Please provide information about measures taken or to be taken to bring the Iranian Criminal Code into line with international human rights law.

6. Please indicate what measures have been taken to ensure that human rights defenders in Iran are able to carry out their legitimate work in a safe and enabling environment without fear of threats or acts of intimidation, harassment or prosecution of any sort.

While awaiting a reply, we urge that all necessary interim measures be taken to halt the alleged violations and prevent their re-occurrence and in the event that the investigations support or suggest the allegations to be correct, to ensure the accountability of any person(s) responsible for the alleged violations.

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.

Houria Es-Slami  
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

David Kaye  
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Maina Kiai  
Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

Michel Forst  
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Asma Jahangir  
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran