

Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment; the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

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Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment; Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers and Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 43/24, 42/22, 37/8, 42/16, 44/8 and 43/20.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government new information we have received on the situation of four dual nationals currently imprisoned in the Islamic Republic of Iran, namely two Austrian-Iranians, **Massud Mossaheb** and **Kamran Ghaderi**, British-Iranian **Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe**, and British-American-Iranian **Morad Tahbaz**. We are particularly concerned for the health of these four individuals, including the reported COVID-19-related symptoms being experienced by Mr. Mossaheb and Mr. Ghaderi.

The situation of Mr. Massud Mossaheb has been raised in two Special Procedures communications dated 2 April 2020 (IRN 6/2020) and 16 June 2020 (IRN 13/2020), as well as in a Special Procedures press release published on 17 April 2020. We regret that a response to the issues raised in communication IRN 6/2020 has not been received. We thank you for your response to communication IRN 13/2020, but regret that it did not provide substantive information on several of the issues raised in the communication, including concerns regarding the reported use of coercion to force a confession, predetermination by the judge presiding over his trial and other serious due process violations, and the provision of inadequate medical treatment to him for serious medical conditions. The response also did not provide information explaining why he had not been granted temporary furlough under COVID-19 protection directives.

The situation of Mr. Kamran Ghaderi has been raised in two Special Procedures communications dated 28 June 2019 (IRN 7/2019) and 2 April 2020 (IRN 6/2020), as well as in a Special Procedures press release published on 17 April 2020. We regret that a response to the issues raised in communication IRN 6/2020 has not been received. We thank you for the response received from Your Excellency's Government to communication IRN 7/2019, but regret it did not address in a more

substantive manner the concerns raised regarding the reported use of torture against Mr. Ghaderi, the alleged arbitrary nature of his detention, and other due process issues connected to his trial, which raise serious questions regarding the veracity of the allegations made against him.

The situation of Ms. Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe has been raised in four previous Special Procedures communications dated 28 June 2019 (IRN 7/2019), 17 March 2017 (IRN 8/2017), 27 January 2017 (IRN 4/2017), 6 October 2016 (IRN 26/2016), and 1 July 2016 (IRN 20/2016), as well as in two Special Procedures press releases dated 20 October 2017 and 10 July 2019. We thank you for your replies to communications IRN 20/2016, IRN 26/2016 and IRN 7/2019, however we regret that no replies were received to communications IRN 8/2017 and IRN 4/2017. We also regret that the replies received did not engage substantively on the issues raised regarding the lack of evidence to substantiate the allegations against Ms. Zaghari-Ratcliffe, as well as violations of fair trial rights, which led to her conviction and imprisonment. The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in its Opinion No. 28/2016 found that Ms. Zaghari-Ratcliffe's detention is arbitrary and called for her immediate release (see A/HRC/WGAD/2016/28).

The situation of Mr. Morad Tahbaz has been raised in two Special Procedures communications dated 2 April 2020 (IRN 6/2020), 1 April 2019 (IRN 3/2019) and 21 February 2018 (IRN 6/2018), as well as Special Procedures press releases published on 17 April 2020 and 23 February 2018. We regret that to date no replies to these communications have been received.

The situation of these four dual nationals have also been consistently raised in the biannual reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including in his latest report to the General Assembly in 2020 (A/75/213, paragraphs 34 and 35).

According to the new information received:

Mr. Massud Mossaheb

Massud Mossaheb is an Austrian-Iranian dual citizen and is 74 years old. He remains in detention in Evin Prison. It is reported that he is in a cell with the dimensions of 4x6m, which has housed during his detention up to 15 people at once. On 13 July 2020, Mr. Mossaheb's lawyer was informed that an appeals' court had upheld his convictions in relation to alleged espionage activities for Israel and Germany. The verdict also upheld his sentences of 10 years' imprisonment for spying for Israel, 10 years' imprisonment for spying for Germany and two years' imprisonment for illegal acquisition of money through the alleged spying activities. Mr. Mossaheb reportedly was able to read the written verdict of the appeals court, which reportedly only confirmed the verdict of the Revolutionary Court in a summary manner. Mr. Mossaheb had reportedly not been able to view his court file in preparation for his appeal, nor was he or his legal representative able to present an appeal in his defence against his conviction through an in court appeal hearing before a judge.

The appeal court did not consider the allegations of torture and forced confessions that Mr. Mossaheb states occurred during his detention since his arrest on 26 January 2019, and which were the basis of his conviction. The appeals court also did not address the alleged pre-determination of the decision by the judge at first instance as well as other due process and fair trial violations. Concerns regarding torture, forced confessions and violations of due process guarantees were raised in previous communications. No substantive evidence has been presented by the authorities to support the claims made against Mr. Mossaheb. On 11 August 2020, a spokesperson for the Iranian judiciary announced Mr. Mossaheb's conviction and sentence at a public news conference. On 13 August 2020, Mr. Mossaheb's forced confession was reportedly broadcast on state television. With respect to his conviction, it has been reported that Mr. Mossaheb was never provided with the verdict. Instead, he was allowed to see the first verdict but was not given a copy. Likewise, Mr. Mossaheb has not been provided with the verdict of the Appeals Court, but only allowed to read it. The verdict convicts Mr. Mossaheb to 10 years imprisonment for alleged cooperation with Israel, to 10 years imprisonment for espionage for the German secret service; and to 2 years imprisonment and reimbursement of the sum of supposedly illegally acquired USD 279 999 and USD150 000 through the above activities.

As detailed in previous communications, Mr. Mossaheb continues to experience health issues due to chronic conditions, which are not being adequately treated while he is in detention. In recent months, he has consistently suffered angina pectoris attacks with high blood pressure, sometimes on a frequent basis, including several times a day. In September 2020, he reportedly tried several times to obtain adequate medical care for this issue, but treatment was either not provided at all or only after a delay of weeks. In response to his shortness of breath, he was reportedly told by the Evin prison doctor that he should take his face mask off more often in order to breathe better, despite the high risk of contracting COVID-19. On 30 September 2020, the Director of Evin Prison, the representative of the Prosecutor's Office, the Director of the medical unit at the prison and other officials attended the prison and Mr. Mossaheb addressed them about his medical problems and the lack of adequate treatment. The representative of the Prosecutor's Office reportedly ordered that he be seen by a State medical officer immediately. Despite the "immediate" order, Mr. Mossaheb's relatives reportedly had to visit the office of the State medical officer to complete forms and pay fees. On 6 October 2020, the medical officer visited Mr. Mossaheb in Evin Prison. He said that Mr. Mossaheb needed surgery on his umbilical hernia, that he needed to see a cardiologist urgently and that he needed to see an ophthalmologist for his decreasing eyesight. The medical officer reportedly requested that Mr. Mossaheb be seen by the Tehran Director of Medical Officers in order to give orders for further diagnostic and treatment measures. The director has not yet seen Mr. Mossaheb and none of the urgent medical procedures and examinations ordered by the State medical officer have yet occurred.

A neurologist who had prescribed mirtazapine to Mr. Mossaheb had not attended Evin Prison for four to six weeks. The Evin Prison doctor claimed that only the neurologist could provide the prescription to Mr. Mossaheb. Consequently, Mr. Mossaheb was not able to obtain this prescribed medication for weeks. Despite his earlier claim, the Evin Prison doctor did eventually write a prescription for the medication that would allow his relatives to obtain the medication. The relatives bought the medication and handed it to prison authorities to give to Mr. Mossaheb, but it has not yet been given to him. Mr. Mossaheb did reportedly receive an influenza vaccination on 28 October 2020.

On 7 November 2020, a doctor specializing in internal medicine examined Mr. Mossaheb. He reportedly was shocked at the medical state of Mr. Mossaheb. The doctor reportedly ordered an electrocardiogram be conducted, but it could not occur as the equipment was unavailable. He also ordered a blood examination, which took place on 9 November 2020.

On 14 November 2020, Mr. Mossaheb was seen by an internal medicine specialist for a second time as well as a neurologist. After examining Mr. Mossaheb, the internal medicine specialist was reportedly shocked by Mr. Mossaheb's poor medical condition and that he had been imprisoned for over two years with his various medical conditions. Mr. Mossaheb was also not told part of the blood results from 9 November, which found his kidney parameters are increasing, a negative indicator given he previously experienced acute renal failure and received dialysis treatment. It has been reported that in November, he was only able to receive half the dose of the medicine he required for his pain.

On 9 December 2020, he reportedly suffered another angina pectoris attack but no doctor was available. On 10 December 2020, Mr. Mossaheb reportedly began to experience symptoms related to COVID-19. The symptoms included fever, body aches and chest pains. In another cell on the same floor, another prisoner had been infected with COVID-19. He had been unable to see medical staff at the prison clinic when these symptoms developed, as no doctor is reportedly available on Thursday inside the prison. Other prisoners in Mr. Mossaheb's cell took turns every two hours taking care of him. On 11 December 2020, he continued to suffer symptoms, including fever, chills and coughing. No doctor was available to see him. Someone organized pain killer for him to relieve the pain and reduce the fever. On 12 December 2020, he was accompanied to the medical ward by another inmate. He still did not receive a proper examination or a test for COVID-19. The doctor reportedly said he should not worry and it is just a cold. Mr. Mossaheb's blood pressure was very high at 170/100mmHg. Mr. Mossaheb inquired if the results from his 9 November blood examination were available, to which the doctor said he had not received them because the printer is not working. The doctor looked into records on the computer and said that Mr. Mossaheb's cholesterol level was 0, which Mr. Mossaheb disputed as unrealistic. After Mr. Mossaheb urged the doctor for a prescription of a diuretic which he had not had for two weeks, which the doctor agreed to. Mr. Mossaheb was also reportedly unable to send

a letter to his lawyer with information the lawyer requested. On 13 December 2020, Mr. Mossaheb continued to have strong symptoms, including strong chills and fever. The head of the medical ward at Evin Prison saw him. Mr. Mossaheb complained about his mistreatment, including that it had been two months since the medical review to consider a medical furlough and examinations in hospital had been ordered and it still had not happened. The head said he would see what he could do, but no examinations or tests were performed.

On 23 December, Mr. Mossaheb was brought to a clinic in Tehran. He was first brought to an endocrinologist to check his thyroid levels and diabetes as well as by a cardiologist who performed an ECG and echocardiography which showed mitral valve insufficiency. The cardiologist said that Mr. Mossaheb was in absolute need of a CT Angiography for the coronar arteries and that his umbilical hernia needed a surgery as soon as possible as it was bleeding and exsuding fluid and is protruding out of his abdomen. He was subsequently sent to have a CT taken of his thorax. Based on the CT imaging which showed clear effects of the disease, he was diagnosed with COVID-19. A COVID-19 test was ordered to be taken after 2 weeks and it was recommended that he be in quarantine at home for two weeks. He was taken back to prison and isolated in the infirmary ward until 27 December. A COVID-19 test was taken on 27 December (17 days after his first symptoms) and the test came out negative. He was therefore taken back to his cell in ward 4.

On the same day, after being brought back to ward 4, Mr. Mossaheb as well as Mr. Ghaderi were appointed to an unexpected meeting at the prison heads offices to be questioned individually. It has been reported that a camera and microphone was set up and that Mr. Mossaheb was informed that due to his state of health he could apply for temporary release from prison or a reduction of the prison sentence. He was asked to present his health situation with special consideration of COVID-19. He provided this information in details. There is no information available as to the outcome of the meeting.

On 27 December, Mr. Mossaheb was scheduled to once again be brought to a Hospital in Tehran for the continuation of his examinations.

Mr. Kamran Ghaderi

Mr. Kamran Ghaderi is an Austrian-Iranian dual national and businessman. On 2 January 2016, he was detained upon arrival at Tehran airport from Vienna on a business trip, and is currently serving a 10-year prison sentence for allegedly “conducting espionage for enemy states”. The conviction reportedly rested on forced confessions extracted under torture and threats against his family. Mr. Ghaderi denied the accusations in court and told the judge that the confession was signed under torture, without the court investigating the torture allegations further or taking them into consideration in the verdict. His conviction was upheld upon appeal, and his request to the Supreme Court for re-trial remains unanswered. Mr. Ghaderi remains detained in Evin prison.

Following his arrest, he was for a lengthy period kept in solitary confinement, and was allowed visits from his mother several months after his arrest. He has on numerous occasions been denied visits from his wife and children. Because of his inability to move, he was for periods of time also been unable to meet with his family and lawyer.

As detailed in a past communication, Mr. Ghaderi's health condition has significantly deteriorated since 2017. His request for medical treatment was initially denied by the Prosecutor's Office in 2017. He eventually received medical treatment and was transferred to hospital six times for physical therapy sessions which subsequently were discontinued without any explanation given. Mr. Ghaderi has undergone two operations in 2018, for the removal of two intervertebral discs in his spinal cord and for the operation of a 30 cm long prosthesis into the spinal column. Following a 62 days resting period granted outside of prison he was returned to prison without receiving the required post-surgery physical therapy. Mr. Ghaderi has not received any treatment for the tumor in his leg, identified during an MRI scan in September 2017.

In early December 2020, Mr. Ghaderi started to display COVID-19 symptoms but was not tested until the end of December. The result of the test was reportedly negative. However, Mr. Ghaderi reportedly still has not regained his loss of smell and taste.

Ms. Nazanin Ratcliffe

Ms. Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, a dual British-Iranian national, was detained at an airport in Iran in April 2016 and convicted to five years imprisonment, without any official announcement of charges. Between her arrest in April 2016 and until 17 March 2020, she was kept detained in Evin prison.

During her imprisonment, she was denied appropriate health care for lumps in her breasts, severe neck pain and numbness in her arms and legs.

On 17 March 2020, Ms. Zaghari-Ratcliffe was temporarily released under the authorities' COVID-19 measures, while obliged to wear an electronic ankle tag and keep her movements limited within 300 meters of her parents' house in Tehran. In addition, her home is heavily monitored and officials from the IRGC call twice a day, sometimes with intimidating messages. On 20 May 2020, Ms. Zaghari-Ratcliffe's monitored and conditional temporary release was extended until her plea for pardon is decided. As well as the ankle bracelet restricting movement, her home is heavily monitored, so there are no visitors. Her access to doctors has been restricted. She has received some home doctor consultations. However, when she tried to visit specialists, officials from IRGC insisted to handcuff and accompany her and observe her medical consultation. As a result, Ms. Zaghari-Ratcliffe has refrained from seeking some of the required specialist treatment.

According to the verdict of 2016, Ms. Zaghari-Ratcliffe was sentenced to five years imprisonment. On 8 September 2020, State media reported that Ms. Zaghari-Ratcliffe was facing new charges. Her trial scheduled for 13 September was postponed and re-scheduled for 2 November.

On 2 November 2020, at 08:00 am, Ms. Zaghari-Ratcliffe was picked up by 12 IRGC officials who also filmed the pick up, and was taken to the Revolutionary Court on charges of spreading propaganda against the regime. The evidence used in court was the same evidence used for her conviction in 2016. Ms. Zaghari-Ratcliffe was able to respond to questions by the judge which related to the evidence used in her previous trial. However, before Ms. Zaghari-Ratcliffe could present her defence the case was adjourned. The court session lasted a total of 45 minutes and was filmed. According to the judge, the filming was a legal requirement and was for the archive of the Judiciary. No date for the next hearing has been sent, and Ms. Zaghari-Ratcliffe was returned to her parents' house. Since the trial the authorities have not provided any new information about the ongoing trial.

In December, Ms. Zaghari-Ratcliffe was allowed to go to the hospital for tests, which she had to pay for herself. She was accompanied by guards. The results of the tests are pending.

Mr. Morad Tahbaz

Mr. Morad Tahbaz, is a 64 year old Iranian-British-American national and environmentalist. He was arrested by IRGC officials in January 2018 while in Iran to document biodiversity and wildlife with a Government permit. Despite three ministries concluding that there was no evidence to claim that Tahbaz had conducted espionage, he was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on espionage charges by Branch 15 of Tehran Revolutionary Court alongside other members of the Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation in November 2019. He has since been detained in Evin prison. In November 2019, state television broadcasted a programme presenting Mr. Tahbaz as agent of foreign intelligence services.

In February 2020, the Court of Appeals reportedly upheld his convictions and sentences. His health condition has continuously deteriorated during his imprisonment, he is reportedly in great pain and needs to use a catheter. Despite his medical condition, Mr. Tahbaz has been denied the required medical care and he has not been granted temporary release under the authorities' COVID-19 temporary release schemes. His requests for furlough have been either refused or unanswered.

Without prejudging the accuracy of the received information, we express serious concern at the continued imprisonment of Mr. Mossaheb, Mr. Tahbaz and Mr. Ghaderi. While we welcome the temporary release of Ms. Zaghari-Ratcliffe, we express concern at the heavy monitoring and restrictions to her movements, and at new criminal proceedings initiated against her. We are particularly concerned at the health situation of all of the four individuals and at the denial of temporary release of

Mr. Mossaheb, Mr. Tahbaz and Mr. Ghaderi due to their serious medical conditions, including at least two of them having contracted COVID-19 in prison or displaying COVID-19 symptoms and all of them being in need of specialist medical treatment. We reiterate our concerns that their arrest, trial and convictions fall short of international human rights law, including through the use of overbroad and vague charges; the lack of evidence to substantiate the charges, prolonged solitary confinement and the use of forced confessions. We call on your Excellency's Government to review their cases in line with international human rights law and in the meantime, to allow their temporary release on health grounds.

In connection with the above-mentioned allegations, we would like to refer your Excellency's Government to the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of liberty and the right to fair proceedings before an independent and impartial tribunal, in accordance with articles 9 and 14 of the ICCPR. We wish to recall that States parties should permit and facilitate access to counsel for detainees in criminal cases from the outset of their detention (CCPR/C/GC/35, para. 35). We also recall that a deprivation of liberty may be arbitrary if it is based on discriminatory grounds, including birth, national, ethnic or social origin, language, religion, economic condition, political or other opinion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or any other status, that aims towards or can result in ignoring the equality of human beings.

We further recall that article 14 of the ICCPR, provides inter alia for the principle of equality before competent, independent and impartial courts and tribunals, the presumption of innocence, provision of adequate time and facilities for the preparation of the defence, and the right of accused persons to communicate with counsel of their own choosing. We also refer to General Comment No. 32 (2007) by the Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/GC/32); the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers; the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Remedies and Procedures on the Right of Anyone Deprived of Their Liberty to Bring Proceedings Before a Court (A/HRC/30/37); and Deliberation No. 11 of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on prevention of arbitrary deprivation of liberty in the context of public health emergencies.

Moreover, Article 7 of the ICCPR prohibits torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and by extension any conviction as a result thereof. Paragraph 7c of Human Rights Council Resolution 16/23 urges States, "to ensure that no statement established to have been made as a result of torture is invoked as evidence in any proceedings, except against a person accused of torture as evidence that the statement was made, and calls upon States to consider extending that prohibition to statements made as a result of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, recognizing that adequate corroboration of statements, including confessions, used as evidence in any proceedings constitutes one safeguard for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

We would like to further refer your Excellency's Government to article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ratified by Iran on 24 June 1975, which establishes that an obligation to respect the right to health by, inter alia, refraining from denying or limiting equal access for all persons, including prisoners or detainees to preventive, curative and palliative health services

(Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, CESCR General Comment 14, Para. 34). We would also like to specifically highlight article 12(2)(c), which obliges States to take the steps necessary for “the prevention, treatment and control of epidemic, endemic, occupational and other diseases” (see also CESCR General Comment 14, Para. 16). In addition, we would like to underline the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 45/111, according to which prisoners should have access to health services available in the country without discrimination on the grounds of their legal situation (Principle 9).

We also draw your attention to the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (reviewed on 17 December 2015 and renamed the “Mandela Rules”), in particular to Rule 24 that establishes that the provision of health care for prisoners is a State responsibility and that the state should ensure continuity of medical treatment for chronic conditions; Rule 27(1), which provides that all prisons shall ensure prompt access to medical attention in urgent cases, as well as Rule 58 which establishes that prisoners shall be allowed to communicate with their family and friends at regular intervals.

The full texts of the human rights instruments and standards recalled above are available on www.ohchr.org or can be provided upon request.

In view of the urgency of the matter, we would appreciate a response on the initial steps taken by your Excellency’s Government to safeguard the rights of the above-mentioned person(s) in compliance with international instruments.

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 the observations of your Excellency’s Government 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 detailed information about the legal basis for the arrest and detention of the above-mentioned individuals and about the evidence used to substantiate the charges. Please indicate how the charges against them are compatible with international human rights law.
3. Please provide information on measures taken to provide them with guarantees of due process and fair trial, including with regard to the type of incriminating evidence presented before the courts, as well as the effective access to counsel of their choosing as established under international human rights law.
4. Please provide information on the condition of their detention, including details about time spent in solitary confinement, family visits and communication with their lawyers, as well as about the state of

their physical and psychological well-being.

5. Please provide details and the results of any investigations and inquiries undertaken in relation to the allegations of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, while in detention and during interrogation. If no inquiries have taken place, or if they have been inconclusive, please explain the reasons.
6. Please provide information about why the temporary release of Mr. Mossaheb, Mr. Ghaderi and Mr. Tahbaz has been denied, and explain how this is compatible with international human rights law.
7. Please provide information about measures taken to ensure that Mr. Mossaheb, Mr. Ghaderi and Mr. Tahbaz receive adequate health care in prison, in particular specialist health care to for their serious health conditions.
8. Please provide information about measures taken to provide COVID-19 testing in prison of the above-mentioned individuals, and of the outcome and follow up of such tests. Please also provide information about the kind of measures taken to ensure that prisoners testing positive for COVID-19, are provided with appropriate follow-up.
9. Please provide information about why Mr. Mossaheb was returned from the infirmary ward to his cell only three days after starting an isolation that was meant to last 14 days following his positive testing for COVID-19.
10. Please provide information about why Mr. Ghaderi has not received treatment for the tumor in his leg.
11. Please provide information about the legal basis for the new charges against Ms. Zaghari-Ratcliffe, including a specification of the charges and the evidence used to substantiate them. In particular, please specify why Ms. Zaghari-Ratcliffe is being prosecuted on the basis of the same evidence that she has previously been convicted for. Please clarify whether Ms. Zaghari-Ratcliffe has had access to legal assistance of her choice in the context of these new charges and provide information as to why her new trial has been re-scheduled twice.

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 responsible of the alleged violations.

This communication and any response received from your Excellency's Government will be made public via the communications reporting [website](#) within 60 days. They will also subsequently be made available in the usual report to be

presented to the Human Rights Council.

We would like to inform your Excellency's Government that after having transmitted an urgent appeal to the Government, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention may also transmit the cases in which it has not yet issued an opinion through its regular procedure in order to render an opinion on whether the deprivation of liberty was arbitrary or not. Such appeals in no way prejudices any opinion the Working Group may render. The Government is required to respond separately for the urgent appeal procedure and the regular procedure.

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

Javaid Rehman
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Elina Steinerte
Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

David R. Boyd
Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment

Tlaleng Mofokeng
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

Diego García-Sayán
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers

Nils Melzer
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment