

Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur on minority issues 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; Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; Special Rapporteur on minority issues and Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 43/24, 42/22, 45/3, 44/5, 43/8 and 43/20.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information we have received concerning the risk of imminent execution of Mr. **Hossein Silawi**, Mr. **Ali Khasraji** and Mr. **Naser Khafajian**, individuals of the Ahwazi Arab minority, as well as a series of executions of individuals of the Baluchi minority. We furthermore would like to bring to your Excellency's Government's attention information received at the critical health condition while in state custody of Mr. **Behnam Mahjoubi**, a Gonabadi sufi religious minority. The alleged violations form part of what appears to be an escalation of a systematic crackdown on minority groups, particularly intensified since mid-December 2020.

Concerns at the enforced disappearance of Mr. Hossein Silawi, Mr. Ali Khasraji and Mr. Naser Khafajian were raised in a joint communication by Special Procedures on 20 May 2020 (ref. no IRN 11/2020). We thank your Excellency's Government for the response of 8 October 2020, but remain concerned in light of new information described below.

Concerns at the risk of imminent execution of two clerics of the Baluch minority were raised in a joint communication by Special Procedures on 20 January 2021 (ref. no 3/2021), and concerns at the execution Javid Dehghan, an Iranian man of the Baluch minority and of at least 19 other individuals of the Baluch minority in the period 19 December 2020 – 28 January 2021 were raised in a joint communication by the Special Procedures on 29 January 2021 (ref. no IRN 5/2021).

Concerns at the harassment, arrest and detention of Gonabadi Sufis have been raised by several joint communications by Special Procedures, including on 9 October 2014 (ref. no IRN 22/2014); 16 April 2013 (ref. no IRN 7/2013); and 16 February 2012 (ref. no IRN 1/2012). More recently, the situation of Gonabadi Sufis has been raised by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran in his report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/46/50).

According to the new information received:

The case of Mr. Hossein Silawi, Mr. Ali Khasraji and Mr. Naser Khafajian

As detailed in a previous communication, Mr. Hossein Silawi, Mr. Ali Khasraji and Mr. Naser Khafajian are of the Ahwazi Arab minority and were sentenced to death, after being accused of participation in an attack on a police station in 2017 where two police officers were killed. The circumstances around their arrest and subsequent trial proceedings resulting in a death sentence are unclear. After their arrest, they were subject to enforced disappearance and were held incommunicado detention for several months in solitary confinement in a detention centre run by the Ministry of Intelligence, in an unknown location and without access to a lawyer or their families, during which they were subjected to torture and ill-treatment for the purpose of extracting confessions. As a result, both men sustained broken ribs, and one also suffered serious injuries to the hand which required surgery and metal implant. For several months, the authorities refused to transfer one of the men to hospital for medical treatment in connection with the surgery needed following injuries inflicted during ill-treatment. His transfer took place only after he attempted to commit suicide in protest.

A televised recording of their confession was broadcast on State television in May 2017, shortly after their arrest and prior to their trial. One of the individuals was filmed giving his alleged confession while in a hospital bed.

On 31 March 2020, the three men were transferred from Sheiban prison to an undisclosed location. Prior to their enforced disappearance, the men were reportedly told by prison officials that their death sentence had been upheld by the Supreme Court. We note the information provided by your Excellency's Government in the response of 8 October 2020, stating that legal case against the individuals is pending and that they are held in a prison overseen by State Prisons and Security and Corrective Measures Organization. However, we remain concerned that the response contradicts the information provided by prison officials with respect to the status of the case, and also that the response does not provide any further clarification as to the name and place of detention of the three men subjecting them to enforced disappearance.

In December 2020, it was reported that Mr. Hossein Silawi and Mr. Ali Khasraji were held together with other death row prisoners in a small isolated cell in Sheiban prison. However, their transfer to Sheiban prison has not been officially confirmed and their current location remains therefore unclear. The two men have reportedly sewed together their lips and been on hunger strike in protest at their inhumane prison conditions and the ongoing threat that they may be executed. The cell in which they are held has no heating or cooling facilities, and the toilet unit is placed inside the cell. They continue to be denied contact with their families or a lawyer of their own choosing.

Mr. Naser Khafajian continues to be subject to enforced disappearance as his whereabouts remains unknown.

Execution of individuals of the Baluch minority

Since December 2020, a series of executions of individuals of the Baluch minority has been reported. In the period 19 December 2020 to 10 February 2021, at least 25 individuals of the Baluch minority have been executed by hanging, primarily in Zahedan Central Prison and Mashhad Central Prison. At least nine of the executions have taken place on the basis of drug related charges under the Narcotics Law. The executions have otherwise taken place on the basis of convictions for “taking up arms to take lives or property and to create fear in the public (“moharebeh”), corruption on earth (“efzad-e fil-arz”) “membership in armed groups”, and “armed rebellion against the basis of the Islamic Republic” (“baghi”). A minority of the convictions were for alleged murder. It has been reported that a common pattern in these cases involve periods of enforced disappearances, prolonged periods of solitary confinement, the use of torture to extract forced confession, a low threshold for evidence used in the conviction, lack of adequate legal representation and other gross fair trial concerns. In several of the cases, the executions took place without granting the families the right of last visit in line with national law, and the families were informed of the executions only after the fact.

Despite vast natural resources, Sistan-Baluchestan Province is one of the most economically marginalized provinces and has received limited State investment for development and public services. It has the lowest per capita income in the country, with almost 80 per cent of the Baluch minority living below the poverty line. It has been reported that the repression in the province has led to some support for insurgency groups. Iranian forces increasingly carry out operations against these groups on the border with Pakistan, in ways that may contribute to further sectarian violence.

Risk of death in detention of Mr. Behnam Mahjoubi

Mr. Behnam Mahjoubi is a member of the Gonabadi Dervish religious minority. The Gonabadi Dervish minority is a Sufi religious minority that is viewed by the Government as heretic.

In April 2018, Mr. Mahjoubi was among over 300 members of the Dervish community that were arrested after having participated in a peaceful protest in February 2018 against the authorities intensified persecution of their community. The protests were reportedly violently quashed by security forces and Basij forces that resorted to beating the protestors with batons, electric cables and sharp objects, using tear gas, water cannons and live ammunition to disperse the crowd. Following this event, over 200 Gonabadi Dervishes were sentenced to a total of 1080 years imprisonment, almost 6000 lashes as well as internal exile, travel ban and bans on joining political and social groups.

Mr. Mahjoubi was arrested by around 20 plainclothes security agents and subjected to beatings. He was held solitary confinement for a prolonged period, and subjected to 24 hours a day lights in the cell, and interrogated without a lawyer present. He was reportedly forced by his interrogators to sign

a confession. He was subsequently convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment on the charge of “assembly and collusion against national security”. Following a release on bail, Mr. Mahjoubi was summoned to begin serving his prison sentence in Evin Prison in June 2020. Mr. Mahjoubi had a psycho-social medical condition and his doctor has determined that due to his medical condition he is not able to withstand imprisonment. Despite this medical assessment he was summoned to serve his sentence. He had repeatedly been subjected to torture and ill-treatment during detention and denial of specialist medical care for his condition.

Since his imprisonment, Mr. Mahjoubi underwent several hunger strikes. His first hunger strike on 31 July 2020 ended after the prison authorities promised to provide him with his medication. He initiated another hunger strike in August 2020 for 12 days in solidarity with the hunger strike initiated by several human rights defenders and lawyers, demanding the release of prisoners of conscience amid the spread of COVID-19 in prisons. His hunger strike in August left him weak and he eventually collapsed in prison, following which he was taken to hospital but was returned to prison the same day despite recommendation from the doctors that he remain in hospital. Since August 2020, prison authorities had reportedly also blocked Mr. Mahjoubi’s access to medication provided by his family. During this period, he also experienced COVID-19 symptoms.

In the last week of September 2020, Behnam Mahjoubi experienced seizures on several occasions, resulting in his head being knocked to the ground and temporary paralysis on the left side of his body. According to information received, he had been pressured to take sleeping pills to treat his psycho-social medical condition. These pills were reportedly incompatible with his prescribed medication. Despite an earlier promise by the prison authorities to take him to a regular hospital to examine his condition following his seizures, on 27 September 2020, he was instead forcibly transferred to Aminabad psychiatric hospital. There, he was forcibly injected with chemical substances against his will.

Mr. Mahjoubi initiated another hunger strike on 29 September 2020 in protest at his enforced detention in the psychiatric hospital. After six days, he was returned to Evin prison and ended his hunger strike two days later.

Following his return to Evin prison, his health deteriorated further. The left side of his body had been paralyzed, his legs swollen and he was unable to walk without a walking aid. On 29 October, he initiated another hunger strike and on 31 October 2020, prison authorities again forcibly transferred him to Aminabad psychiatric hospital but told his family that he had been taken to a regular hospital. According to information received, doctors in the psychiatric hospital threatened Mr. Mahjoubi that if he did not end his hunger strike, they would give him electric shocks. He was returned to prison on 2 November 2020 and ended his hunger strike the next day.

It has been reported that Mr. Mahjoubi's health significantly deteriorated after each time he was transferred to the psychiatric hospital. There is to date no clear information about what kind of treatment and medication he was subjected to in the psychiatric hospital.

On 12 February 2021, at night, Mr. Mahjoubi was taken to the prison infirmary, after having entered a state of panic and following three nights without sleep and with pain in his arms and legs. Due to lack of a doctor on shift in the prison, he was given an unknown medication presented as sleeping pills. Shortly after taking the pills, his health deteriorated rapidly, he lost consciousness and entered into a state of coma. The same night, he was transferred from Evin Prison to a hospital in Tehran. On 15 February, he was reportedly breathing only with the help of machines.

On 16 February 2021, conflicting reports emerged about the situation of Mr. Mahjoubi. The family's request to visit him in hospital was initially denied. According to reports, the hospital has received a written order from the Judiciary not to allow anyone to visit Mr. Mahjoubi in the hospital. However, some members of his close family were subsequently able to visit him for short periods on 16 and 17 February.

On 16 February, the State Prisons Organization released a statement about the situation of Mr. Mahjoubi. According to the statement, on 31 January 2021, the judicial authorities concluded that due to Mr. Mahjoubi's illness, the enforcement of his sentence would be suspended, provided that a bail set at 200 million tomans (approximately USD 39,090) is paid.

We express grave concern at the risk of imminent execution of Mr. Silawi and Mr. Khasraji, as well as the continued enforced disappearance of Mr. Khafajian, which places him at risk of imminent execution, torture and ill-treatment. We reiterate our serious concerns at the alleged use of torture against the three men for the purpose of extracting forced confessions, the subsequent broadcasting by state television of their forced confessions, for the prolonged periods of solitary confinement in inhumane prison conditions as well as for the gross shortcomings of fair trial standards.

We furthermore express grave concern at the wave of executions carried out against individuals of the Baluch minority, in what appears to be part of a coordinated campaign against the country's minority groups, in particular in marginalized provinces. While we welcome legislative changes in 2017 aimed at reducing the number of death sentences for drug offences, we are particularly concerned at what appears to be a recent increase in executions for drug offences. We are concerned that among the executions against the Baluch minority, a high number consist of executions for alleged drug offences, and that the majority of these executions take place for alleged acts that do not constitute "most serious crimes" under international human rights law. Furthermore, we express grave concern at multiple violations allegedly committed in connection with their arrest, detention and trial. We reiterate that the imposition of the death penalty following such grave violations would render any execution arbitrary.

We furthermore express serious concern at the critical health situation while in state custody of Mr. Behnam Mahjoubi, after having been subjected to a serious of grave violations of his human rights. We express grave concern at his twice forced treatment at a psychiatric hospital, denial of specialist medical care in detention, repeated denial of access to appropriate medication and at the provision of wrong medication, as well as grave concerns around his arrest, torture and ill-treatment in detention and lack of legal representation. We are furthermore concerned at what appears to be State imposed secrecy around his health situation following him going into a coma, and the restrictions ordered upon the hospital in which he was held as well as the restricted visiting rights granted to his family.

We would like to remind your Excellency's Government of its obligations under international human rights law. Article 6(2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by the Islamic Republic of Iran on 24 June 1975, states that the death penalty may not be imposed when doing so would be contrary to the provisions of the ICCPR and pursuant to a final judgement rendered by a competent court.

Under international law, the death penalty may be imposed only for the "most serious crimes," involving intentional killing. Crimes not resulting directly and intentionally in death, although serious in nature, can never serve as the basis, within the framework of article 6, for the imposition of the death penalty (Human Rights Committee, General Comment 36).

Only full respect for stringent due process guarantees distinguishes capital punishment as possibly permitted under international law from an arbitrary execution. Thus, the Human Rights Committee in General Comment 36, recalls that the violation of the fair trial guarantees provided for in article 14 of the ICCPR resulting in the imposition of the death penalty would render the sentence arbitrary in nature, and in violation of article 6. Such violations include the use of forced confessions (concurrent violation of article 7); lack of effective representation during all stages of the criminal proceedings; failure to respect the presumption of innocence; lack of an effective right of appeal; lack of adequate time and facilities for the preparation of the defence; and general lack of fairness of the criminal process, or lack of independence or impartiality of the trial or appeal court.

We also remind that states have a heightened duty of care to take any necessary measures to protect the lives of individuals deprived of their liberty by the State, since by arresting, detaining, imprisoning or otherwise depriving individuals of their liberty, States parties assume the responsibility to care for their lives and bodily integrity, and they may not rely on lack of financial resources or other logistical problems to reduce this responsibility. The duty to protect the life of all detained individuals includes providing them with the necessary medical care and appropriate regular monitoring of their health. A heightened duty to protect the right to life also applies to individuals quartered in liberty-restricting State-run facilities, such as mental health facilities (General Comment 36).

Without expressing at this stage an opinion on the facts of the case and on whether the reported detentions were arbitrary or not, we would like to appeal to your Excellency's Government to take all necessary measures to guarantee the right of the detained person in this case not to be deprived arbitrarily of his liberty and to fair proceedings before an independent and impartial tribunal, in accordance with articles 9, 10 and 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and articles 9 and 14 of the ICCPR.

In this connection, we recall that Human Rights Committee in General Comment no. 35 affirms that arrest or detention as punishment for the legitimate exercise of the rights as guaranteed by the Covenant is arbitrary, including freedom of opinion and expression (art. 19), freedom of assembly (art. 21) and freedom of association (art. 22), freedom of religion (art. 18) and the right to privacy (art. 17). Arrest or detention on discriminatory grounds in violation of article 2, paragraph 1, article 3 or article 26 is also in principle arbitrary. Enforced disappearances violate numerous substantive and procedural provisions of the Covenant and constitute a particularly aggravated form of arbitrary detention.

Article 14 of the ICCPR further stipulates that, in the determination of any criminal charge, everyone shall be entitled to adequate time to communicate with counsel of choice. Article 14 also guarantees the right to be tried without undue delay. The right to have access to a lawyer without delay and in full confidentiality is also enshrined in principle 9 and guideline 8 of the United Nations 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 the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers (Principles 7 and 8).

Additionally, we underline that the death penalty must not be imposed in a discriminatory manner contrary to the requirements of articles 2 (1) and 26 of the ICCPR. Data suggesting that members of religious, racial or ethnic minorities, indigent persons or foreign nationals are disproportionately likely to face the death penalty may indicate an unequal application of the death penalty, which raises concerns under article 2 (1) read in conjunction with article 6, as well as under article 26 (Human Rights Committee, General Comment 36).

Article 7 of the ICCPR prohibits torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. 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."

With regards to the solitary confinement of Mr. Silawi, Mr. Khasraji and Mr. Khafajian over several months, as well as the solitary confinement of Mr. Mahjoubi, we would like to recall the report by the Special Rapporteur on torture

and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (A/66/268), in which he concluded that prolonged or indefinite solitary confinement runs afoul of the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Furthermore, due to the prisoner's lack of communication, as well as the lack of witnesses inside the prison, solitary confinement may also give rise to other acts of torture or ill-treatment. We would also like to recall paragraph 6 of General Comment No. 20 of the Human Rights Committee (1992), which states that prolonged solitary confinement of the detained or imprisoned person, may amount to acts prohibited by article 7 of the ICCPR, as well as Rule 43 of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Mandela Rules), expressly prohibiting the prolonged solitary confinement.

We are further alarmed by the allegations that Mr. Silawi, Mr. Khasraji and Mr. Khafajian have been forcibly disappeared for several months. We would like to stress that the failure to acknowledge deprivation of liberty by state agents and refusal to acknowledge detention constitute an enforced disappearance. We reiterate that enforced disappearance is a serious violation of human rights and may well amount to the crime of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, unequivocally prohibited under international law.¹ Paragraph 27 of General Assembly Resolution 68/156 (February 2014), “[r]eminds all States that prolonged incommunicado detention or detention in secret places can facilitate the perpetration of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and can in itself constitute a form of such treatment, and urges all States to respect the safeguards concerning the liberty, security and dignity of the person and to ensure that secret places of detention and interrogation are abolished”. In this respect, the alleged enforced disappearance of the aforementioned individuals would contravene Iran's obligations under the ICCPR, articles 6 and 9, and its obligations under the United Nations Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances.

The Declaration establishes the prohibition to practice, permit or tolerate enforced disappearances (article 2); the obligation to take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent and terminate acts of enforced disappearance (article 3) and that no circumstances whatsoever, whether a threat of war, a state of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked to justify enforced disappearances (article 7). The Declaration recognizes the right to a prompt and effective judicial remedy as a means of determining the whereabouts or state of health of persons deprived of their liberty (article 9), the right to be held in an officially recognized place of detention, in conformity with national law and to be brought before a judicial authority promptly after detention in order to challenge the legality of the detention (article 10). The same article of the Declaration establishes the obligation of the detaining authorities to make available accurate information on the detention of persons and their place or places of detention, including transfers, to their family, counsel or other persons with a legitimate interest (article 10). The Declaration also establishes the obligation to make the findings of an investigation into the circumstances of the disappearance available upon request to all persons concerned and to ensure that all involved in the investigation are protected against ill-treatment, intimidation or reprisal (article 13).

¹ See, Communication No. 449/1991, *Mojica v Dominican Republic*, Views adopted by the Human Rights Committee on 15 July 1994, para. 5.7.

Finally, we wish to refer to the international standards regarding the protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities, in particular article 27 of the ICCPR and the 1992 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, adopted in General Assembly resolution 47/135, which refers to the obligation of States to protect the existence and the identity of minorities within their territories and to adopt measures to that end (article 1) as well as to adopt the required measures to ensure that persons belonging to minorities can exercise their human rights without discrimination (article 4).

In view of the urgency and gravity of the matter, and of the irreversibility of the punishment of the death penalty, we call upon your Excellency's Government to immediately halt any steps being taken towards the execution of Mr. Silawi and Mr. Khasraji, and Mr. Khafajian, which, on the basis of the information made available to us would violate international human rights law and standards, and thus constitute an arbitrary execution. We further urge your Excellency's Government to ensure that the death sentences against the aforementioned individuals are annulled and that they are re-tried in full compliance with international human rights law and standards. We further urge your Excellency's Government to promptly provide information on the current place of detention of Mr. Khafajian whose whereabouts remains unknown and to undertake a full and independent investigation into the allegations of torture and ill-treatment and enforced disappearance against all three individuals.

Additionally, we call on your Excellency's Government to review all death sentences against individuals of the Baluch minority to ensure their death sentences were handed down in full compliance with human rights standards.

Furthermore, without expressing at this stage an opinion on the facts of the case and on whether the reported detentions were arbitrary or not, we appeal to your Excellency's Government to take all necessary measures to guarantee the right of the detained persons in this case not to be deprived arbitrarily of his liberty and to fair proceedings before an independent and impartial tribunal, in accordance with articles 9 and 14 of the ICCPR.

The full texts of the human rights instruments and standards recalled above are available on www.ohchr.org or can be provided upon request. The full texts of the human rights instruments and standards recalled above are available on 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 the name and location of the place where Mr. Silawi, Mr. Khasraji and Mr. Khafajian are currently detained.
2. Please provide information about measures taken to ensure that Mr. Silawi, Mr. Khasraji and Mr. Khafajian can receive visits from

their families as well as be granted access to a lawyer of their own choosing.

3. Please provide information about the status of the legal proceedings against Mr. Silawi, Mr. Khasraji and Mr. Khafajian, in particular, if their conviction and death sentences have been upheld by the Supreme Court. Please provide the court documents pertinent to their cases.
3. Please provide explain why the state television reportedly broadcast an alleged confession by the three men, and how such broadcasting is in line with international standards, in particular the right to a fair trial, the presumption of innocence as well as the right not to be forced to self-incriminate.
4. Please provide information about whether any investigation has taken place into the alleged torture, ill-treatment and enforced disappearance of Mr. Silawi, Mr. Khasraji and Mr. Khafajian, as well as the alleged torture and forced medical treatment, of Mr. Mahjoubi. If no such investigation has taken place, please explain why.
5. Please provide further detailed information on any steps that may have been taken to ensure the inadmissibility of any forced confessions, obtained from Mr. Silawi, Mr. Khasraji and Mr. Khafajian, in judicial procedures. If no such steps have been taken, please explain how this is consistent with the international human rights obligations of Iran.
6. Please provide information about the number of executions of individuals of the Baluch minority since December 2020, with a breakdown of the legal basis for their death penalty, as well as court documents pertaining to their convictions.
7. Please provide information about the reason behind the high number of death penalty convictions for drug related charges, in particular in view of the positive steps implemented by the Islamic Republic of Iran to reduce such convictions.
8. Please provide information about the reason for Mr. Mahjoubi's enter into coma and about his health situation following transfer to the hospital on 12 February 2021.
9. Please provide information about the legal basis for the transfer of Mr. Mahjoubi to a psychiatric hospital on two occasions and his forced medical treatment. Please explain how these actions are compatible with the obligations of the Islamic Republic of Iran under international human rights law.
10. Please provide information about the justification and legal basis for initially denying Mr. Mahjoubi's family the right to visit him in

hospital following his state of coma. Please provide information about the evidence used to convict Mr. Mahjoubi of “assembly and collusion against national security”.

12. Please provide information about measures taken to ensure that Iranians belonging to minority groups are able to enjoy their rights without discrimination of any kind.

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.

Moreover, 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 transmit the cases 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 prejudice any opinion the Working Group may render. The Government is required to respond separately for the allegation letter procedure and the regular procedure.

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

Javaid Rehman

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