

**Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran**

Ref.: UA IRN 21/2025

(Please use this reference in your reply)

15 December 2025

Excellency,

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 55/19.

In this connection, I would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information I have received concerning Mr. Ehsan Faridi, a 22-year old mechanical engineering student at Tabriz Technical College. He is reportedly the youngest political prisoner currently on death row in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to the information received:

Mr. Faridi was first arrested on 8 March 2024, and transferred to Tabriz Central Prison. He was released on bail on 18 March 2024, but later faced new charges of "propaganda against the state," for which he was sentenced to six months in prison.

On 18 June 2024, the Ministry of Intelligence summoned Mr. Faridi to Branch 15 of the Tabriz Prosecutor's Office, which handles national security cases. He was arrested upon arrival, interrogated, and transferred to Tabriz Central Prison; he was charged with Moharebeh based solely on intelligence reports without presenting a warrant or other evidence.

His first court session was held on 3 August 2024 at the Tabriz Revolutionary Court which lasted eight months. The judge relied almost entirely on Ministry of Intelligence reports and treated Mr. Faridi as a national security offender reportedly without conducting any independent investigation or factual review.

In February 2025, the head of the Branch 3 of the Revolutionary Court of Tabriz sentenced Mr. Faridi to death. The Revolutionary Court reportedly reinterpreted the evidence for which he had been charged in August 2024 as a major national security offence and charged him with 'corruption on earth'. The verdict was based on reports from the police intelligence unit and an indictment issued by a prosecutor who was later sacked for corruption.

The sentence against Mr. Faridi has since been upheld three times by the Appellate courts without addressing legal contradictions or procedural flaws. Similarly, the retrial request presented by his lawyer was rejected by the court within hours of receiving it, raising doubts on whether it was effectively reviewed. On 18 October 2025, authorities transferred Mr. Faridi to solitary confinement.

Throughout the process Mr. Faridi's prosecution has been marked by coercion, torture, and intimidation. He was allegedly subjected to torture during interrogations and forced to sign false confessions. Reports indicate that he was denied meaningful access to legal counsel and was not allowed to review his case file. His family is said to have faced threats and pressure from judicial authorities. The charges against him were reportedly escalated, and his case was fast-tracked toward execution due to his refusal to cooperate and engage in false confessions.

Mr. Faridi faces the imminent risk of execution considering the lack of further legal recourse.

I have previously raised concerns about the swift execution of political prisoners and the secrecy that surrounds such death sentences and flagged that authorities have repeatedly acted without warning or public disclosure in comparable cases. I am thus concerned that his sentence could be carried out at any moment.

While I do not wish to prejudge the accuracy of these allegations, I express grave concern at the imminent risk of execution faced by Mr. Faridi.

I wish to remind Your Excellency's Government of its obligations, notably under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which Your Excellency's Government ratified in 1975. Article 6(1) of the ICCPR protects the right to life and prohibits arbitrary deprivation of life. Article 6(2) provides that, where not abolished, the death penalty may be imposed only for the "most serious crimes." In its general comment No. 36 (para. 35), the Human Rights Committee clarifies that "most serious crimes" must be read restrictively to mean crimes of extreme gravity involving intentional killing, and that 'corruption and other economic or political crimes' do not meet this threshold. Additionally, general comment No. 36 (para. 2) affirms that no derogations from the right to life are permitted, even in situations of armed conflict or other public emergencies that threaten the life of the nation.

I further recall article 7 of the ICCPR, which enshrines the absolute prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Article 14 guarantees the right to a fair trial by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal; the presumption of innocence; adequate time and facilities to prepare a defence, including access to legal counsel of one's own choosing; and the exclusion of statements obtained through coercion. Additionally, under article 14(3)(e), the defendant must be able to examine or have examined witnesses against him.

I am also seriously concerned by allegations that the proceedings failed to comply with due-process and fair-trial guarantees notably article 9 and article 14 of the ICCPR.

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, I would appreciate a response as soon as possible on the initial steps taken by your Excellency's Government to safeguard the rights of the above-mentioned person in compliance with international instruments.

As it is my responsibility, under the mandate provided to me by the Human Rights Council, to seek to clarify all cases brought to my attention, I would also 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. Please clarify whether Mr. Faridi had prompt, regular, chosen legal counsel throughout his trial.
3. Please provide information on any remaining post-conviction reviews available to Mr. Faridi. Please also explain the reasons for the very expedited rejection of his judicial-review request and how the decision met the heightened safeguards required in capital cases.
4. Please clarify what evidence was used to convict Mr. Faridi, and how this is compatible with your Excellency's Government's obligations under international fair trial standards, particularly in relation to capital cases and the exclusion of any evidence obtained under torture.

I respectfully urge your Excellency's Government to halt the execution of Mr. Faridi immediately pending an independent and impartial review of his case in full compliance with international legal obligations.

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.

I may publicly express my concerns in the near future as, in my view, the information upon which the press release will be based is sufficiently reliable to indicate a matter warranting immediate attention. I also believe that the wider public should be alerted to the potential implications of the above-mentioned allegations. The press release will indicate that I have been in contact with your Excellency's Government's to clarify the issues in question.

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

Mai Sato  
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran