

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 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 right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief; the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences and the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls

Ref.: UA IRN 7/2026

(Please use this reference in your reply)

3 June 2026

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 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 right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief; Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences and Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 58/21, 60/8, 54/14, 52/9, 59/4, 60/10, 61/22, 53/12, 58/5, 52/7, 59/20 and 59/14.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information we have received concerning the alleged widespread arbitrary arrests and detention often followed by the enforced disappearance, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of individuals in the context of the nationwide protests, as well as the imposition of the death penalty in cases predating the protests, where defendants were reportedly tried without due respect for fair trial guarantees and on the basis of torture-tainted confessions.

According to the information received and as previously raised in communication UA IRN 1/2026, we remain particularly alarmed by reports of alleged widespread arbitrary arrests, often followed by enforced disappearances, in the context of nationwide protests, including students, protesters and bystanders. In some cases, children are reported to be among those arrested. We have raised particular concern regarding the situation of members of the Bahá'í religious minority in a separate communication (UA IRN 4/2026), including allegations of arbitrary arrest, torture, extraction of forced confessions, and detention, notably in the case of Mr. Peyvand Naimi, whose life is reportedly in imminent danger. We have also addressed in a separate communication

(IRN 5/2026) the arrest and alleged enforced disappearance of human rights defender Ms. Nasrin Sotoudeh, as well as the incommunicado detention of human rights defender Mr. Ahmadrza Haeri and the reported reimposition of sentences against him on the same charges while in detention, and many detainees are allegedly held without access to legal counsel or contact with their families. There have been estimates that as many as 50,000 individuals were arrested in connection with the December 2025 - January 2026 protests, although precise figures remain difficult to verify. Additionally, since 28 February 2026, the start USA and Israel war against Iran, there have been numerous reports detailing the widespread arrest of citizens across the country; at least 3,646 people have been reportedly detained in this period, of whom at least 767 were arrested after the ceasefire began on 8 April 2026. As also raised in that communication (UA IRN 1/2026), concern was expressed regarding reports that security forces entered medical facilities where wounded protesters had been transferred and attempted to arrest injured individuals. Several persons were reportedly detained in and around such facilities.

As previously raised in the allegation letter (AL IRN 19/2025) regarding the situation of prisons and detention centres in the Islamic Republic of Iran, we remain concerned about general conditions of detention, including overcrowding, inadequate access to medical care, poor sanitation, and restrictions on family contact, as well as instances of enforced disappearances. We are particularly concerned by reports that these conditions have reportedly worsened in the context of the ongoing military conflict.

Following up on these concerns, and in connection with allegations of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, violations of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, fair trial rights, as well as allegations of torture and other ill-treatment and unsuitable conditions of detention, arising from the December 2025 – January 2026 protests in the Islamic Republic of Iran, we would like to bring to your Excellency's Government's attention a number of cases which raise serious concerns. In addition, we would like to draw attention to several political and security-related cases predating the latest protests, included below, in which individuals are reportedly at imminent risk of execution.

We wish to note that, due to ongoing nationwide internet disruptions in the Islamic Republic of Iran, maintaining contact with many families whose relatives have been reportedly subjected to arbitrary detention, or enforced disappearance, has not been feasible. As such, the cases outlined below represent only a limited portion of the overall number of cases falling within our mandates.

While we welcome any initiative that may reduce the number of persons held in detention, we are seriously concerned that conditioning eligibility for temporary release on the assessment that a prisoner's presence in society would not "disturb public order and security" may, in practice, result in the exclusion of a significant number of detainees, in particular those held on political or security-related charges in connection with their participation in the December 2025 – January 2026 protests.

Cases related to the 2025/2026 protests:

██████████ was reportedly arrested on 13 January 2026 at his father's residence in Ahvaz by several security officers. According to the information received, he was apprehended while asleep, blindfolded and handcuffed, and initially taken to a facility operated by the Ministry of Intelligence. On 14 January 2026, he was reportedly transferred to Evin Prison in Tehran without his family being informed of his whereabouts, which amounts to an enforced disappearance. Although the family was subsequently contacted by an investigator, they were reportedly informed that no formal charges had been brought against him, the case being treated as a "security" matter. Concerns have been raised that Mr. Tahmasebi has been denied access to legal counsel and family visits. It is further alleged that his family has been subjected to pressure by security forces, and that a video recording of part of his interrogation has been publicly circulated, raising serious concerns regarding possible coercion and violations of due process guarantees.

Mr. Teymour Salari, a lawyer, was reportedly arrested on 11 January 2026, by officers of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Intelligence, on the pretext of "loitering," despite indications that he had no involvement in the protests. According to the information received, he was subsequently charged with "forming groups against national security" and "propaganda against the regime." Mr. Salari was initially held in an IRGC Intelligence detention facility before being transferred on 12 January 2026 to Jiroft Prison in Kerman Province, where he has remained in detention. Although bail was reportedly issued approximately one week after his arrest, the bail tendered by his representatives was not accepted and a temporary detention order was upheld. Concerns have been raised regarding the lack of transparency surrounding the legal basis for his continued detention and the involvement of intelligence authorities in the judicial process. It is further alleged that, following the transfer of his case to the provincial capital, no information has been provided regarding the progress of proceedings, raising serious concerns about due process and the ability of Mr. Salari to prepare an effective defence. Additional concerns relate to the possible consideration of further charges under national security or espionage-related provisions, which may significantly increase the risk of unfair trial and disproportionate punishment.

Mr. Shervin Bagheryan Jabali, 18 years old, was reportedly arrested on 9 January 2026 at his family residence in Isfahan by security forces, following his alleged participation in protests the previous evening. According to the information received, security officers forcibly entered the residence, dragged him from his bed, and used violence against family members, including the use of tear gas, to prevent interference. His fate and whereabouts remained unknown to his family for approximately one week to ten days. Subsequently, a video broadcast on national television reportedly showed Mr. Jabali in detention during what appeared to be an interrogation, in which he was accused of offences including *moharebeh* (enmity against God), a charge that often carries the death penalty. Serious concerns have been raised that he has been denied

access to legal counsel and may have been subjected to torture or other ill-treatment to extract a forced confession.

Mr. Rasoul Salehi, a cultural activist from Isfahan, was reportedly arrested on 6 January 2026 at his sister's residence following his public involvement in the protests. According to the information received, Mr. Salehi had spoken outside a courthouse on behalf of families of detained individuals, calling for their release and further protests if detainees were not freed. He is reported to be currently held in Dastgerd Central Prison in Isfahan and to have been indicted on charges of *moharebeh* (enmity against God), with the prosecutor reportedly seeking the death penalty.

Mr. Mohammad Nikbakht was reportedly arrested on 15 March 2026 by Ministry of Intelligence agents at his home in Golpaygan, Isfahan Province. He was beaten during the arrest, and his home was searched for several hours, during which personal belongings, including mobile phones, were confiscated. He is reportedly held in a Ministry of Intelligence detention facility within Dastgerd Prison in Isfahan, and his fate and whereabouts remained unknown to his family, who have received no information regarding his legal status, charges, or access to legal counsel. Additionally, he has been denied contact with his family since his arrest. It is also reported that he has previously been arrested and imprisoned on multiple occasions in connection with his writings and participation in protest activities. Concerns have been raised in light of his previous arrests related to peaceful expression and protest activities, as well as reports regarding his religious conversion to Christianity. His current situation raises concerns regarding incommunicado detention and risk of further human rights violations.

Mr. Izad Aghabeigi, a 55-year-old retired employee and former accountant at the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was reportedly arrested by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces at his home in Tehran on 23 March 2026. Since his arrest, he has been held incommunicado, with only a single brief phone call permitted approximately ten days later to confirm that he was alive, and no information has been provided regarding his legal status, charges, or condition and actual whereabouts. It is further reported that he had previously been detained in connection with his participation in the “Women, Life, Freedom” protests. His continued incommunicado detention, combined with the refusal of authorities to disclose his fate or whereabouts, amounts to an enforced disappearance under international law, placing him at heightened risk of further human rights violations, including torture or other ill-treatment.

Cases predating Dec 2025/ Jan 2026 protests

Mr. Yousef Ahmadi, from Kurdish ethnicity was reportedly arrested by Ministry of Intelligence agents in Baneh, Kurdistan Province, on 27 April 2020 and transferred to a detention facility in Sanandaj. He was reportedly shot in the leg at the time of arrest, denied medical care, and subjected to torture to extract forced confessions. He was later transferred to Sanandaj Central Prison, Kurdistan Province. Following a trial on 27 August 2022 before Branch One of the Islamic Revolutionary Court in Sanandaj, he was convicted of *baghi* (armed

rebellion against the foundations of the State) and “involvement in murder” and sentenced to death. The sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court in February 2024. Mr. Ahmadi remains detained in Sanandaj Central Prison and is at risk of execution. In addition, he also faces charges in relation to his alleged involvement in two separate murder cases. He has reportedly secured the consent of only one of the two families to pay blood money; however, he remains at risk of a *qisas* sentence in the other case. Mr. Ahmadi is currently detained in Sanandaj Central Prison and is at risk of execution at any time.

Mr. Rauf Sheikh-Maroufi, a Kurdish man from Bukan, West Azerbaijan Province, was reportedly arrested on 26 December 2022 during the protests and detained for approximately 170 days in a Ministry of Intelligence facility in Urmia, where he was allegedly subjected to severe physical and psychological torture to extract forced confessions. Following interrogation, he was transferred to Bukan Prison. After nearly three years of detention marked by prolonged uncertainty, he was reportedly sentenced to death on charges of *moharebeh* (enmity against God) by Branch One of the Islamic Revolutionary Court of Mahabad and formally notified of the sentence on 24 February 2026. It is further reported that he and his family have faced pressure and threats from security bodies in relation to publicising his case. He remains detained in Bukan Prison and is at risk of execution.

Mr. Mohammad Faraji, a Kurdish man also from Bukan, West Azerbaijan Province, was reportedly arrested on 22 February 2023 in connection with the 2022 protests and detained for approximately three and a half months in a Ministry of Intelligence facility in Urmia, where he was allegedly subjected to severe physical and psychological torture to extract forced confessions. He was subsequently transferred to Bukan Prison. After nearly three years of detention in a state of uncertainty, he was reportedly sentenced to death on charges of *efsad-e fel-arz* (corruption on earth) in separate proceedings before Branch One of the Islamic Revolutionary Court of Mahabad and was officially notified of the sentence on 24 February 2026. It is further reported that he and his family have been subjected to pressure and threats by security bodies. He remains detained in Bukan Prison and is at risk of execution.

Mr. Mohsen Eslamkhah, a 20-year-old Kurdish man from Bukan, West Azerbaijan Province, was reportedly sentenced to death on charges of *moharebeh* (enmity against God) by Branch One of the Islamic Revolutionary Court of Mahabad in connection with the 2022 protests. It is reported that he was targeted by security forces in 2022, when he was 16 years old, and his family home was repeatedly raided; due to pressure and fear of arrest, he left Iran and remained in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq until returning on 1 August 2025, after which he was arrested upon presenting himself to the Ministry of Intelligence in Bukan. He was subsequently transferred to a Ministry of Intelligence detention facility in Urmia, West Azerbaijan Province, where he was held for approximately two months and subjected to torture to extract forced confessions regarding involvement in the killing of a Basij member. He was later transferred to Bukan Prison and temporarily released on bail before further proceedings. His case, alongside others linked to the Bukan protests, was referred to the Revolutionary Court in Mahabad, which reportedly issued a death

sentence on 17 February 2026; he presented himself to the court on 22 February 2026 following reported pressure on his family. Serious concerns have been raised that he was a minor at the time of the alleged offence in addition to allegations of torture and due process violations. He is currently at risk of execution.

Ms. Narges Mohammadi, an Iranian journalist, human rights defender, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate 2023, was reportedly arrested on 12 December 2025 in Mashhad and was held in detention under conditions raising serious concerns. She was reportedly subjected to physical violence at the time of arrest and has since experienced significant and deteriorating health issues, including neurological and vision-related symptoms and severe blood pressure fluctuations. Despite medical recommendations for urgent specialist care, she was transferred to Zanzan Prison, where she was reportedly held in poor conditions, denied adequate medical treatment, and subjected to restrictions on contact with her family and legal counsel. Despite repeated medical emergencies, including loss of consciousness and a suspected heart attack, and despite an official declaration from the Zanzan Province Forensic Medical Organization confirming the necessity of a one-month suspension of Ms. Mohammadi's sentence for medical treatment, judicial authorities only allowed her transfer to Zanzan hospital on 1 May, and on 10 May she was transferred to a hospital in Tehran following “a sentence suspension on heavy bail”. According to reports on 7 February 2026, she was sentenced by Branch 1 of the Mashhad Revolutionary Court to six years’ imprisonment for “assembly and collusion against national security” and 18 months on the charge of “propaganda against the state”. Additional punishments reportedly included two years of internal exile to Khosf, South Khorasan province, and a two-year travel ban. Ms. Mohammadi is currently serving multiple prison sentences and faces around 18 years of imprisonment. It is further recalled that her prior periods of detention have been found to be arbitrary by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (opinion No. 48/2017).

In addition to the individual cases detailed above, information has been received regarding a number of other individuals reportedly facing the death penalty or at risk of capital charges in connection with the protests between December 2025 - January 2026. It is further reported that several of these convictions may have relied on confessions obtained under torture or ill-treatment, and that in some cases individuals have been denied access to legal representation. At least four individuals, including, Mr. Abolfazl Karimi, Mr. Salehi Siavashani, Mr. Shahab Zahedi, and Mr. Yasser Rajaeifar, have reportedly been sentenced to death on charges such as *moharebeh* (enmity against God). Additional individuals, [REDACTED] Mr. Ehsan Hosseinipour Hesarloo, Mr. Daniyal Niazi, Mr. Amirhossein Azarpira, and Mr. Mohammadreza Tabari, are reportedly currently on trial or otherwise at risk of being sentenced to death, including two children at the time of the alleged offences. Reports also indicate the use of severe physical violence, including beatings, gun threats, and denial of medical care, in the course of arrest and interrogation.

According to the information received, developments since the January 2026 protests indicate a pattern of serious deterioration in prison conditions, including shortages of food and basic necessities, denial of adequate medical care, unsanitary environments, and the transfer of detainees to undisclosed locations. It is further reported that some detention facilities have come under increased control of security forces, contributing to a heightened security environment and increased restrictions on detainees. Reports also suggest that detainees held on political or security-related charges are at heightened risk of being held incommunicado or in conditions that amount to ill-treatment.

We note the announcement made on 21 March 2026 by the Head of the Prison Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Gholamali Mohammadi, that widespread temporary releases would be granted to eligible prisoners across the country on the occasion of Nowruz and Eid al-Fitr. It was further indicated that prisoners deemed to have “disturbed public order and security” would be excluded from such measures.

While we do not wish to prejudge the accuracy of these allegations, we express grave concern that the described acts and omissions may constitute violations of the Islamic Republic of Iran's obligations under international human rights law. The right to liberty and security of person is protected under article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which Iran ratified on 24 June 1975. Article 9 establishes that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention, and that anyone deprived of their liberty shall be informed promptly of the reasons for their arrest and brought promptly before a judge. The cases described above raise serious concerns of arbitrary detention, prolonged pre-charge detention, and the use of broad and ill-defined “security” classifications to circumvent procedural safeguards.

We particularly wish to highlight in this regard that articles 21 and 22 of the ICCPR protects the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, respectively. States not only have a negative obligation to abstain from unduly interfering with these rights but also have a positive obligation to facilitate and protect their exercise in accordance with international human rights standards. Peaceful participation in a protest must therefore not serve as the sole basis for arrest, and whether or not a person's participation can be considered peaceful should first and foremost be determined based on their individual conduct. We express grave concern that the abovementioned individuals appear to have been arrested their peaceful participation in nationwide protests, and that their prosecution seeks to criminalize the exercise of their right to freedom of peaceful assembly as protected under international human rights law. Likewise, the criminal prosecution of individuals – including cultural figures, lawyers and activists – solely on the basis of their professional conduct, or because of their association with organizations or movements associated with the nationwide protests, appears incompatible with article 22 of the ICCPR.

The right to life is protected under article 6(1) of the ICCPR, which prohibits the arbitrary deprivation of life. Article 6(2) provides that in countries that have not abolished the death penalty, it may only be imposed for the “most serious crimes” and subject to strict limitations and procedural guarantees. The Human Rights Committee has clarified in general comment No. 36 (para. 35) that “most serious crimes” must be read restrictively to mean crimes involving intentional killing. Even in cases involving

intentional killing, the imposition of the death penalty must comply with the strictest fair trial guarantees, including the right to be tried by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law; the presumption of innocence; adequate time and facilities for the preparation of the defence; access to counsel of one's own choosing and effective legal representation at all stages of the proceedings; equality of arms; the right not to be compelled to testify against oneself or to confess guilt; the exclusion of evidence obtained through torture or other ill-treatment; and the right to review by a higher tribunal. Failure to comply with such guarantees would render the resulting death sentence arbitrary in nature and in violation of article 6 of the ICCPR.

The charges of *moharebeh* (enmity against God), *efsad-e fel-arz* (corruption on earth) and *baghi* (armed rebellion against the foundations of the state), reportedly brought against Mr. Bagheryan Jabali, Mr. Abolfazl Karimi, Mr. Salehi Siavashani, Mr. Shahab Zahedi, and Yasser Rajaeifar, and the death sentences imposed on Mr. Ahmadi, Mr. Sheikh-Maroufi, Mr. Faraji and Mr. Eslamkhah do not appear to meet this threshold. Moreover, the reported use of proceedings that failed to respect fair trial guarantees and relied on torture-tainted confessions raises serious concerns about violation of the right to life.

We would also like to highlight that any judgment imposing the death sentence and execution of a child offender, in the case of Mohsen Eslamkhah, [REDACTED] is incompatible with the international legal obligations undertaken by your Excellency's Government under the various instruments and is unlawful. Article 6(5) of the ICCPR, and article 37(a) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), ratified on 13 July 1994, expressly prohibit the imposition of the death penalty for offences committed by persons below 18 years of age.

We are particularly concerned that several individuals reportedly face the death penalty following proceedings allegedly tainted by torture, other forms of coercion, and the extraction of forced confessions. We recall that the imposition of the death penalty following proceedings that fail to meet the highest standards of fairness, including where statements obtained under torture or ill-treatment are relied upon, is incompatible with article 6 of the ICCPR and gives rise to particularly grave violations of international law.

Furthermore, in previous communications on the same issues (Ref:2050/1643092 and 2050/2284853), your Excellency's Government has defended the execution of child offenders by referring to article 1 of the CRC: 'For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.' Article 37(a) is a specific prohibition that takes precedence over the more general definition in article 1. It explicitly prohibits the death penalty for offences committed by persons below 18, regardless of domestic laws on majority. Indeed, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, in its general comment 10 (paras. 75 - 76), has interpreted article 37(a) to prohibit the death penalty for any crime committed by a person under 18, regardless of their age at trial, sentencing, or execution.

More broadly, the intent of the CRC is to provide maximum protection for children. Interpreting these articles to allow executions based on lower domestic ages

of majority would go against this purpose. The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties requires treaties to be interpreted in good faith and in light of their object and purpose, which for the CRC is the protection of children's rights. Finally, as noted above, the prohibition of executions for offences committed by children, defined as persons below 18 years of age, has been recognised by various UN bodies as a norm of customary international law.

Enforced disappearances amount to violations of articles 6, 7, 9 and 16 of the ICCPR, read alone and in conjunction with article 2(3). Moreover, they entail a violation of article 7, read alone and in conjunction with article 2(3) of the ICCPR with regard to the relatives of a disappeared person. We wish to recall that the absolute and non-derogable prohibition of enforced disappearances is also enshrined under articles 2 and 7 of the United Nations Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted by General Assembly resolution 47/133 on 18 December 1992. The Declaration sets forth States' obligations to prevent and eradicate this practice. In particular, articles 2 and 3 provide that no State shall practice, permit or tolerate enforced disappearances and that each State shall take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent and terminate acts of enforced disappearance in any territory under its jurisdiction. We further recall that the Declaration sets out the necessary guarantees to be offered by the State, which are provided in, articles 9 to 13, relating to the rights to a prompt and effective judicial remedy to determine the whereabouts of persons deprived of their liberty; to access of competent national authorities to all places of detention; to be held in an officially recognized place of detention, and to be brought before a judicial authority promptly after detention; to accurate information on the detention of persons and their place of detention being made available to their family, counsel or other persons with a legitimate interest; to the maintenance in every place of detention of official up-to-date registers of all detained persons; and the right of any person to complain, when having knowledge of or a legitimate interest in the fact that a person has been subjected to enforced disappearance. We wish further reiterate that duration is not a constitutive element of enforced disappearance under international human rights law, as reaffirmed by the joint statement of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on so-called "short-term" enforced disappearances.

The prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is absolute and non-derogable under international law. Article 7 of the ICCPR forbids torture and ill-treatment and explicitly prohibits the use of statements obtained through such practices as evidence in judicial proceedings. Article 10 further requires that all persons deprived of their liberty be treated with humanity and with respect for their inherent dignity. The reports of physical abuse, coercion to extract forced confessions, prolonged solitary confinement, and the public broadcast of interrogation footage raise serious concerns under these provisions.

We also recall that the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is reflected more broadly in international human rights law, including in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which Iran acceded on 23 October 2009, both of which are particularly relevant in light of the reported detention of children and persons with disabilities.

These instruments require that children and persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty be treated with humanity and dignity, protected from violence, abuse and coercion, and provided with the protection, accommodation and care required by their specific circumstances. In this regard, the reported detention conditions, denial of medical care, coercive interrogation practices, and the treatment of children described above raise additional serious concerns under international human rights law.

We wish to emphasize that incommunicado detention, undisclosed transfers, and the refusal to disclose a detainee's fate or whereabouts create conditions that facilitate torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and may, in certain circumstances, amount to enforced disappearance. The repeated reports of detention without family notification, denial of lawyer access, and confinement in undisclosed or intelligence-run facilities therefore raise particularly serious concerns.

We recall that fundamental safeguards against torture and ill-treatment must apply from the very outset of deprivation of liberty. These include prompt access to a lawyer of one's own choosing, prompt notification of family members, access to an independent doctor, prompt presentation before a judge, and accurate registration of arrest, transfer and place of detention. The information received suggests that these safeguards may have been denied or severely restricted in a number of the cases described above.

We are further concerned by the apparent absence of prompt, independent and confidential medical examinations for detainees alleging torture or ill-treatment. Such examinations are an essential safeguard against torture and are critical to the documentation, prevention and investigation of abuse in custody. In this regard, all allegations of torture or ill-treatment should be documented promptly and effectively, including through independent medical and psychological assessment consistent with internationally recognised standards, including the Istanbul Protocol.

We also recall that where allegations of torture or ill-treatment arise, the competent authorities, including courts and prosecutors, must conduct a prompt, impartial and effective inquiry into the voluntariness and admissibility of any statement obtained during custody or interrogation. The reported reliance on confessions allegedly obtained under coercion, without any indication of effective judicial scrutiny or independent investigation, raises serious concerns regarding compliance with the prohibition of torture and the right to a fair trial.

We are also seriously concerned by reports that interrogation footage or purported confessions were broadcast or otherwise publicly circulated. Such practices may amount to coercion, intimidation, humiliation, and a violation of the dignity, privacy and fair trial rights of the persons concerned, and may in themselves constitute or contribute to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, especially where such material appears to have been obtained in coercive circumstances.

We further recall that whenever there are reasonable grounds to believe that torture or ill-treatment may have occurred, the State is under an obligation to ensure a prompt, impartial, independent and effective investigation, to prosecute and punish those responsible where appropriate, and to ensure that victims have access to an

effective remedy, including reparation and rehabilitation. We further stress the importance of preserving all evidence relevant to allegations of torture and ill-treatment, including medical files, detention registers, transfer records, audio-visual material, interrogation records and any available surveillance footage, in order to ensure effective investigation and accountability.

The right to a fair trial is protected under article 14 of the ICCPR, which guarantees the right to be informed promptly of charges, to have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of a defence, and to communicate with counsel of one's own choosing. The reported denial of access to legal representation to multiple individuals named in this communication, combined with the reported involvement of intelligence authorities in judicial proceedings and the lack of transparency regarding proceedings, raises serious concerns regarding the effective guarantee of fair trial rights.

Article 19 of the ICCPR protects the rights to freedom of expression. The criminal prosecution of individuals, including cultural figures, lawyers, and activists, solely on the basis of their participation in protests, their public statements, or their professional conduct appears incompatible with this right.

The right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is enshrined in article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), also ratified by Iran on 24 June 1975. States parties are obliged to refrain from denying or limiting equal access to health services for all persons, including those deprived of their liberty (Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, general comment No. 14, para. 34). The reported denial of medical care to detainees with known health conditions, including Mr. Asadollahi, who was released on bail later in March 2026 and the reported death of at least one detainee due to medical neglect, raise serious concerns under this provision.

We also recall the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), which require that all persons deprived of liberty be treated with respect for their inherent dignity (rule 1); that States provide health care for prisoners free of charge and without discrimination (rule 24); that prisoners requiring specialized treatment be transferred to appropriate facilities (rule 27); that disciplinary measures amounting to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment be prohibited (rule 43); and that prisoners be able to communicate with their families at regular intervals (rule 58) and, to the extent possible, be held close to their homes (rule 59). In addition, we also wish to refer to the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) (resolution 65/229, annex), which provide that all women prisoners shall be treated with respect for their inherent dignity and without discrimination, while requiring that prison regimes take into account their gender-specific needs.

We urge your Excellency's Government to ensure that decisions regarding temporary release are made on an individual and non-discriminatory basis and are not influenced by the political nature of the alleged offence. Such decisions should be taken in full compliance with the Islamic Republic of Iran's obligations under international human rights law, as well as relevant domestic legal frameworks, including Judicial Council resolution No. 211 (1986), which obliges the judiciary, particularly in

emergency situations, to employ all available mechanisms to safeguard prisoners' lives, including through temporary release.

While awaiting a reply, we urge that all necessary interim measures be taken to halt the executions and prevent any irreparable harm to their life or personal integrity and ensure their access to healthcare and medical services for those in need 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.

The existence of hostilities does not diminish the State's obligations under international human rights law. On the contrary, it heightens the duty to ensure the life, personal integrity, health and dignity of all persons deprived of their liberty.

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 as soon as possible on the initial steps taken by your Excellency's Government to safeguard the rights of the above-mentioned persons 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 also be grateful for your observations on the following matters:

1. Please indicate whether [REDACTED], Mr. Teymour Salari, Mr. Shervin Bagheryan Jabali, Mr. Rasoul Salehi, Mr. Nikbakht, [REDACTED], Mr. Ehsan Hosseinipour Hesarloo, Mr. Abolfazl Karimi, Mr. Daniyal Niazi, Mr. Amirhossein Azarpira, and Mr. Mohammadreza Tabari have been formally charged, and if so, please specify the charges brought against each individual and the legal provisions relied upon. Please clarify, in particular, the legal basis for their arrests and continued detention, and how these are compatible with the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association as stipulated by articles 21 and 22 ICCPR.
2. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure the continuity of Narges Mohammadi's access to adequate and independent medical care, including specialist treatment where required. Please also clarify the legal basis for the charges and sentences imposed against her, and indicate what steps have been taken to carry out prompt, thorough, impartial and independent investigations into the allegations of ill-treatment in detention and to ensure she has access to judicial guarantees and procedural safeguards.
3. Please confirm the current whereabouts, detention status and state of health of each individual named in this communication and clarify whether any of them are held incommunicado or in solitary confinement, and if so, on what legal basis and for what duration.

4. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure that all detainees have prompt and unimpeded access to legal counsel of their own choice, in accordance with Iran's obligations under international human rights law.
5. Please clarify the legal basis and procedural safeguards governing the use of "Security" designations to justify pre-charge detention, the denial of legal representation, and the transfer of detainees between facilities without family notification. Please also explain what steps have been taken to ensure that detainees are able to maintain regular contact with their families and are not subjected to pressure, threats or reprisals in connection with their detention.
6. With respect to Mr. Shervin Bagheryan Jabali and Mr. Rasoul Salehi, who are reportedly charged with or at risk of the death penalty for *moharebeh* or related offences, please explain the legal basis for the application of capital charges in these cases, and clarify what safeguards are in place to ensure compliance with the requirement that the death penalty may only be imposed for the most serious crimes involving intentional killing, as required under article 6(2) of the ICCPR and general comment No. 36 of the Human Rights Committee.
7. Concerning the case of Mr. Mohsen Eslamkhah, who was 16 at the time of the alleged offence, and [REDACTED], please explain how the proceedings against them comply with Iran's obligations under international law, in particular the prohibition of the imposition of the death penalty for offences committed by persons under the age of 18, as set out in article 6(5) of the ICCPR and other applicable international standards. Holding of this sentence is also in violation of International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), article 37(a), which Islamic Republic of Iran has ratified on 13 July 1994.
8. Please provide information on the measures taken to investigate allegations of enforced disappearance, as well as torture, coercion, and the extraction of forced confessions, including in respect of individuals whose interrogations have reportedly been broadcast on national television or circulated publicly, and to ensure that any evidence obtained through such means is excluded from judicial proceedings.
9. Please provide information on the steps taken to improve conditions of detention across the facilities referenced in this and prior communications, including measures to address overcrowding, inadequate medical care, unsanitary conditions, and transfer of detainees to undisclosed locations.
10. Please provide detailed information on the measures taken to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment from the moment of arrest onward in the cases described above,

including access to legal counsel, family notification, independent medical examination, judicial oversight, registration of detention, and safeguards against incommunicado detention, coercive interrogation, and the use of statements obtained under torture or ill-treatment.

11. Please indicate whether the individuals named in this communication who alleged torture or ill-treatment were afforded prompt, independent and confidential medical examinations, and whether any such examinations were carried out in accordance with internationally recognized standards, including the Istanbul Protocol.
12. Please explain whether, in the cases referred to in this communication, any court or prosecutorial authority examined the voluntariness and admissibility of the confessions or statements relied upon, whether any hearings or inquiries were conducted into allegations of torture or ill-treatment, and what outcomes followed.
13. Please provide information on all investigations opened into allegations of torture or ill-treatment referred to in this communication, including whether any officials have been suspended, prosecuted or otherwise sanctioned, and what measures have been taken to ensure effective remedies, reparation and rehabilitation for victims.
14. Please indicate what steps have been taken to preserve all evidence relevant to the allegations raised in this communication, including medical records, detention and transfer logs, interrogation records, surveillance footage, and any recordings of interrogations or confessions.
15. Please provide information on the steps taken to improve conditions of detention across the facilities referenced in this and prior communications, including measures to address overcrowding, inadequate medical care, unsanitary conditions, and transfer of detainees to undisclosed locations.

This communication, and any response received from your Excellency's Government, will be made public via the communications reporting [website](#) at the 60 days mark. Should Your Excellency's Government respond within 60 days, both the communication and the response, may be published before the 60 days mark. The communications and responses will also be made available in the subsequent periodic report to be presented to the Human Rights Council.

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

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

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

Ganna Yudkivska
Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

Gabriella Citroni
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

Irene Khan
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Gina Romero
Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

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

Andrea Bolaños Vargas
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Margaret Satterthwaite
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers

Nazila Ghanea
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief

Alice Jill Edwards
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Reem Alsalem
Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences

Claudia Flores
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls