

Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; 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 situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Ref.: AL TUR 8/2026

(Please use this reference in your reply)

20 August 2026

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacities as Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; 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 situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 53/4, 60/8, 60/10, 61/22, 58/21, 61/17 and 61/10.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information we have received concerning the imminent risk of deportation of Mr. Morteza Amiri, his wife, Ms. Shahrbanou Beykramian, and their two children from Türkiye to their native Islamic Republic of Iran, despite the alleged risk to Mr. Amiri's life and physical integrity, including the risk of execution and torture or other ill-treatment upon return, as well as Ms. Beykramian's serious health condition.

Morteza Amiri is an Iranian human rights defender who has been actively engaged in documenting and reporting on executions and other human rights violations in the Islamic Republic of Iran since 2025, including through his work with Iran Human Rights (IHRNGO).

Special Procedures mandate holders have previously raised with your Excellency's Government similar concerns regarding the deportation of Iranian nationals allegedly at risk of refoulement, including in communications UA TUR 4/2023 and AL TUR 5/2021, sent on 15 June 2023 and 15 March 2021, respectively. We thank your Excellency's Government for its corresponding responses dated 11 September 2023 and 11 May 2023, including the assurances provided therein regarding its commitment to the principle of non-refoulement, as guaranteed under international and regional human rights law.

According to the information received:

Mr. Morteza Amiri (05.02.1985), his wife, Ms. Shahrbanou Beykramian (22.06.1986), and their two children: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] are Iranian nationals.

On 13 July 2014, Mr. Morteza Amiri was arrested in Gorgan, Islamic Republic of Iran, by intelligence authorities without a warrant and without being informed of any charges against him. He was detained for ten days, during which he was reportedly held incommunicado and subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment during interrogations and coerced to sign a confession stating that he had engaged in espionage for Israel. The Iranian intelligence authorities subsequently sought to compel him to undertake intelligence-related activities in his workplace, threatening that the coerced confession would be used against him should he refuse. He was released after indicating that he would cooperate.

Following his release, Mr. Amiri fled Iran with his family and entered Türkiye on 24 July 2014. On 31 July 2014, he applied for international protection with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Ankara and was referred to Denizli to register his application with the Turkish authorities. He registered with the Denizli Provincial Directorate of Migration Management on 26 August 2014.

Following his departure from Iran, criminal proceedings were reportedly conducted against Mr. Amiri in absentia on charges of espionage for Israel, resulting in a death sentence. Mr. Amiri was reportedly neither informed of the proceedings nor represented by legal counsel. He became aware of the sentence only after police officers reportedly showed the court decision to members of his family, although a copy was never formally served on them. According to the information received, the death sentence is final, and Mr. Amiri would face a high risk of execution should he be returned to Iran.

Mr. Amiri's international protection application was examined following an interview conducted by the Denizli Provincial Directorate of Migration Management on 19 August 2020 and rejected on 21 August 2020. His appeal against this decision was rejected by the Denizli Administrative Court on 22 April 2021, and the Regional Administrative Court upheld the first-instance decision on 21 October 2021. On 29 March 2022, the Denizli Provincial Directorate of Migration Management issued a deportation order against Mr. Amiri and members of his family, but it was not implemented.

On 13 April 2023, Mr. Amiri lodged a subsequent application for international protection. His allegations of torture were subsequently independently assessed in accordance with the Istanbul Protocol. The resulting medical report, dated 4 December 2023, reportedly concluded that his physical and psychological findings were consistent with his account of torture and ill-treatment.

Following an interview on 16 January 2025, the subsequent application was declared inadmissible on 20 August 2025 pursuant to article 72 of Law No. 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection, on the ground that it relied on substantially the same facts as his previous application. Mr. Amiri challenged the decision before the Denizli First Administrative Court, submitting, inter alia, information concerning his alleged torture in Iran and the medical report supporting his account, the death sentence imposed against

him, and his work documenting human rights violations in Iran.

On 15 January 2026, the Denizli First Administrative Court rejected his appeal, concluding that the grounds invoked in his subsequent application were substantially the same as those examined in his previous application and that the additional material submitted did not constitute new elements warranting a renewed examination. The judgment was final and not subject to further appeal.

Since 2025, Mr. Amiri has been actively engaged in documenting and reporting on executions and other human rights violations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including through his work with Iran Human Rights (IHRNGO).

On 18 February 2026, Mr. Amiri, his wife, Ms. Shahrbanou Beykramiani, and their two children were detained by the police in the context of migration-related measures, reportedly with a view to their transfer to a removal centre and deportation. They were held together with other asylum seekers and migrants and were reportedly not adequately informed of the reasons for their detention or the measures being taken against them.

The family had left their home without the regular medication required by Ms. Beykramiani and their younger son. During their detention, when they requested access to medication, officials reportedly told them that they could request medication once transferred to the removal centre, but no immediate assistance was provided. Their children were also reportedly subjected to intimidating treatment by officers. At the time, Ms. Beykramiani was awaiting urgent surgery related to an oncological condition.

On 19 February 2026, the family was released subject to a weekly reporting obligation. Prior to their release, they were reportedly warned that failure to comply with administrative requirements, including requirements relating to work authorization and identity documentation, could result in their immediate deportation.

Deportation decisions dated 19 February 2026 were issued against Mr. Amiri and Ms. Beykramiani pursuant to article 54(1)(i) of Law No. 6458. The decision concerning Mr. Amiri bears reference number 3769820.101.18.03.28, while that concerning Ms. Beykramiani bears reference number 3769820.101.18.03.15. According to the information received, they were not provided with copies of the decisions and were informed only of their dates and reference numbers.

Following his release, Mr. Amiri sought a copy of the deportation decision from the migration authorities, but his request was reportedly refused. With the assistance of his lawyer, he was nevertheless able to challenge the decision within the applicable legal deadline using the reference number communicated to him. His appeal against the deportation decision has reportedly been rejected, and the available domestic legal remedies have now been exhausted.

On 22 February 2026, three days after her release, Ms. Beykramiani underwent surgery at Denizli State Hospital. She remains under medical follow-up and requires continued access to healthcare and postoperative monitoring.

Although Mr. Amiri has not been deported at the time of drafting this communication, he reportedly remains at serious risk of removal to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The identity documents of Mr. Amiri and his family have reportedly been confiscated, and their residence and work permits terminated.

Without prejudging the accuracy of the information received, we express serious concern that the deportation of Mr. Amiri to the Islamic Republic of Iran, if carried out, would expose him to a real, personal and foreseeable risk of arbitrary deprivation of life, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, in light of his previous alleged arbitrary detention and torture by Iranian intelligence authorities and the final death sentence reportedly imposed on him in absentia. His deportation in these circumstances would violate Türkiye's obligations under the principle of non-refoulement.

We recall in this regard Türkiye's obligations under articles 6 and 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which prohibit States from removing a person where there are substantial grounds for believing that there is a real risk of irreparable harm, including arbitrary deprivation of life, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Article 3 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) similarly prohibits the expulsion, return or extradition of a person where there are substantial grounds for believing that they would be in danger of being subjected to torture. The prohibition of refoulement where there is a risk of torture is absolute.

In addition, given Mr. Amiri's work documenting and reporting executions and other human rights violations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, your Excellency's Government is required to take account of his heightened protection needs. As a human rights defender, his status and the specific risks arising from his human rights activities must be given due consideration in the individualized risk assessment required under the principle of non-refoulement. We are concerned that his deportation could expose him to a real and foreseeable risk of serious human rights violations. Deporting Mr. Amiri without a rigorous assessment of these heightened risks would also be inconsistent with the State's responsibility to protect human rights defenders against violence, threats, retaliation or other arbitrary action arising from their legitimate human rights activities, as reflected in articles 2 and 12 of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

In this context, we note with particular concern that Mr. Amiri's subsequent application for international protection was declared inadmissible despite the information submitted concerning his alleged torture in Iran, the medical report supporting his account, and the death sentence reportedly imposed against him in absentia. This raises serious questions as to whether the risk he would face upon return

was subject to an individualized assessment taking into account all relevant information, as required under the principle of non-refoulement.

We are also concerned by the reported failure to provide Mr. Amiri and Ms. Beykramiani with copies of the deportation decisions issued against them, including the reasons underlying those decisions. This may have impaired their ability to effectively challenge their removal and raises questions regarding the availability of effective procedural safeguards against refoulement. We note that judicial review of the deportation decisions is reportedly ongoing.

The circumstances of the family's detention on 18 February 2026 raise additional concerns, including the reported lack of adequate information concerning the reasons for their detention and the denial of immediate access to necessary medication. This is particularly serious in the case of Ms. Beykramiani, who was awaiting urgent oncological surgery at the time and required access to medical care. We recall in this regard Türkiye's obligations under articles 7, 9 and 10 of the ICCPR, concerning the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the right to liberty and security of person, and the right of persons deprived of their liberty to be treated with humanity and respect for their inherent dignity, as well as article 16 of CAT.

We wish to draw particular attention to the detention of the two children for migration-related purposes and their reported exposure to intimidating treatment while in detention. Pursuant to article 3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children. We further recall that the detention of children on the basis of their or their parents' migration status is not permissible under international human rights law and that non-custodial alternatives should be used to preserve family unity and protect their rights and well-being.

In connection with the above alleged facts and concerns, please refer to the **Annex on Reference to international human rights law** attached to this letter which cites international human rights instruments and standards relevant to these allegations.

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 any additional information and/or comment(s) comments that your Excellency's Government may wish to make in relation to the above-mentioned allegations.
2. Please provide detailed information on the assessment of Mr. Amiri's application for international protection, including how the authorities assessed the risk he would face upon return to the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of his alleged previous torture, the medical documentation supporting his account, the final death sentence reportedly imposed against him in absentia, and any other relevant information available to the authorities.

3. Please explain the factual and legal basis for the determination that the information submitted by Mr. Amiri did not constitute new elements warranting a renewed examination of his international protection application.
4. Please provide the factual and legal grounds for the deportation decisions issued against Mr. Amiri and Ms. Beykramiani on 19 February 2026, their current status, and explain why copies of these decisions, including the reasons underlying them, were reportedly not provided to them.
5. Please provide information on the judicial and administrative remedies available to Mr. Amiri and Ms. Beykramiani to challenge their and their children's deportation, including the current status of the judicial review proceedings and whether these remedies have automatic suspensive effect pending final determination.
6. Please provide information on the factual and legal grounds for the detention of Mr. Amiri and his family on 18 February 2026, including the procedural safeguards afforded to them and the measures taken to ensure access to timely and necessary medication and healthcare during their detention.
7. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure Ms. Beykramiani's continued access to necessary medical care and postoperative treatment, in light of her oncological condition.
8. Please provide information on how the best interests of the two children were assessed in connection with their detention.
9. Please indicate the measures taken to ensure that Mr. Amiri and his family will not be deported to the Islamic Republic of Iran where there are substantial grounds for believing that they would face a real risk of irreparable harm, in accordance with Türkiye's obligations under the principle of non-refoulement.

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.

Further, we would like to inform your Excellency's Government that after having transmitted the information contained in the present communication to the Government, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention may also transmit the case through its regular procedure in order to render an opinion on whether the deprivation of liberty was arbitrary or not. The present communication in no way prejudices any opinion the Working Group may render. The Government is required to respond separately to the allegation letter and the regular procedure.

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

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

Morris Tidball-Binz

Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

Ganna Yudkivska

Vice-Chair on communications of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

Mariângela Batista Galvão Simão

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

Andrea Bolaños Vargas

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Mai Sato

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

Gehad Madi

Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

Pau Pérez Sales

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

Annex

Reference to international human rights law

In connection with the above alleged facts and concerns, we would like to draw the attention of your Excellency's Government to articles 6, 7, 9 and 10 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by Türkiye on 23 September 2003, which guarantee, respectively, the right to life, the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the right to liberty and security of person, and the right of all persons deprived of their liberty to be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person. These provisions should also be read in conjunction with article 2 (3) of the ICCPR, which requires States parties to ensure an effective remedy for persons whose rights recognized in the Covenant have been violated.

With regard to the principle of non-refoulement, we recall that the Human Rights Committee, in its general comment No. 31, stated that the obligations arising from the ICCPR require States parties not to extradite, deport, expel or otherwise remove a person from their territory where there are substantial grounds for believing that there is a real risk of irreparable harm, such as that contemplated by articles 6 and 7 of the Covenant. The Committee has further indicated that the risk must be personal and that all relevant facts and circumstances must be considered in determining whether such a risk exists.

We further draw the attention of your Excellency's Government to article 3 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), ratified by Türkiye on 2 August 1988, which provides that no State party shall expel, return ("refouler") or extradite a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that the person would be in danger of being subjected to torture. In determining whether such grounds exist, the competent authorities shall take into account all relevant considerations.

We further recall that the Committee against Torture has affirmed the absolute nature of the principle of non-refoulement under article 3 of the Convention. In assessing the risk of torture upon return, States must take into account all relevant considerations, including the individual circumstances of the person concerned. The Committee has identified previous torture or ill-treatment, incommunicado or other forms of arbitrary detention, and political or other activities within or outside the State of origin that could expose the person to torture upon return as relevant indications of personal risk (CAT/C/GC/4, paras. 9 and 29).

The Committee against Torture has further emphasized that each case should be examined individually, impartially and independently by competent administrative and/or judicial authorities, in conformity with essential procedural safeguards. These include access to information concerning the proposed removal and the reasons for it, access to legal assistance, the possibility of having a removal decision reviewed by an independent administrative and/or judicial body, and the suspensive effect of an appeal against a deportation order where necessary to ensure effective protection against refoulement (CAT/C/GC/4).

In addition, given Mr. Amiri's work documenting and reporting executions and other human rights violations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, your Excellency's Government is required to take account of his heightened protection needs. As a human rights defender, his status and the specific risks arising from his human rights activities must be given due consideration in the individualized risk assessment required under the principle of non-refoulement. We are concerned that his deportation could expose him to a real and foreseeable risk of serious human rights violations. Deporting Mr. Amiri without a rigorous assessment of these heightened risks would also be inconsistent with the State's responsibility to protect human rights defenders against violence, threats, retaliation or other arbitrary action arising from their legitimate human rights activities, as reflected in articles 2 and 12 of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.¹

Regarding the deprivation of liberty of Mr. Amiri and his family, we recall that article 9 of the ICCPR guarantees the right to liberty and security of person and prohibits arbitrary arrest or detention. It further provides that anyone who is arrested shall be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for the arrest. As interpreted by the Human Rights Committee in its general comment No. 35 (CCPR/C/GC/35), the notion of "arbitrariness" is not to be equated with "against the law" but must be interpreted more broadly to include elements of inappropriateness, injustice, lack of predictability and due process of law, as well as elements of reasonableness, necessity, and proportionality (paragraph 12). The Human Rights Committee has clarified that article 9 applies to immigration detention and that such detention must be reasonable, necessary and proportionate in light of the circumstances of the individual case. The decision must take into account less intrusive means of achieving the same legitimate objective and be subject to judicial review (CCPR/C/GC/35, para. 18).

We also recall article 10 (1) of the ICCPR, which provides that all persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person. This provision complements article 7 of the Covenant. In this regard, the Human Rights Committee has emphasized that decisions concerning immigration detention must take into account its effects on the physical and mental health of the person concerned.

We further recall Türkiye's obligations under article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, ratified by Türkiye on 23 September 2003, which guarantees the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Accordingly, States have the obligation to refrain from denying or limiting equal access for all persons, including prisoners or detainees, to health services (Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, general comment 14 para. 34). Further, the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Mandela Rules), adopted unanimously by the UN General Assembly (A/RES/70/175), establish States' responsibility to provide healthcare for prisoners (rules 24 to 35) and to particularly ensure continuity of treatment and care (rule 24.2). In addition, Rule 6 of the Bangkok Rules which supplements rules 22 to 26 of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states that: "[t]he health screening of women prisoners shall include comprehensive screening to determine primary health-care needs".

¹ [A/HRC/25/55](#), 2013; [A/71/281](#), 2016; [A/73/215](#), 2018, para 27 and 51

With regard to the children, we would like to draw the attention of your Excellency's Government to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), ratified by Türkiye on 4 April 1995, and in particular article 3 (1), which provides that in all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by courts of law, administrative authorities or other bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

In this context, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, in its Joint General Comment No. 23 (2017), affirmed that the detention of a child because of their or their parents' migration status constitutes a child rights violation and contravenes the principle of the best interests of the child. It further affirmed that children should never be detained for reasons related to their or their parents' migration status and that, where the best interests of the child require keeping the family together, non-custodial solutions should be adopted for the entire family (CMW/C/GC/4–CRC/C/GC/23, paras. 5 and 11).

We further recall that the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment has emphasized that the threshold for ill-treatment may be reached particularly quickly for migrants in situations of increased vulnerability, including children, persons with medical conditions and persons with torture trauma. The Special Rapporteur has further stated that the deprivation of liberty of migrant children based solely on their own or their parents' migration status is never in the best interests of the child, exceeds the requirement of necessity, is grossly disproportionate and, even in cases of short-term detention, may amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (A/HRC/37/50, para. 28).

We would also like to refer your Excellency's Government to the fundamental principles set forth in the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, also known as the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. In particular, we would like to refer to articles 1 and 2 of the Declaration which state that everyone has the right to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels and that each State has a prime responsibility and duty to protect, promote and implement all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Article 12, paragraphs 2 and 3, provide that the State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of everyone against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the Declaration.