



*Mission Permanente  
de la République Islamique d'Iran  
auprès des Nations Unies  
et des autres Organisations Internationales à Genève*

*In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

Ref. 2050/2685400

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the UA IRN 14 / 2025 dated 29 August 2025 enclosed with the Joint Urgent Appeal from Special Procedures, has the honor to transmit herewith, comments from the High Council for Human Rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 23 October 2025



**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Emails: [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org)

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## In the Name of God

In response to the correspondence dated August 29, 2025 with reference number UA IRN 14/2025, sent to the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council, regarding the situation of Mr. Babak Shahbazi, we hereby announce the following as an official response:

### **1. Description of the criminal actions leading to the arrest of the defendant**

Based on intelligence reports, the individual, holding a middle school diploma, has been working since 2020 until the time of arrest in the field of design and installation of residential and industrial cooling systems, acting as a contractor for various important and sensitive security, military, and telecommunications organizations in the country.

Given his constant commute to vital and infrastructural centers of the country, in 2021, with financial motivation and in exchange for receiving one hundred and twenty million dollars in cash and digital currency, he attempted to establish contact with the Israeli spy agency (Mossad) in cyberspace in collaboration with an individual named [REDACTED]

After holding several virtual meetings with a Mossad officer and conducting an initial intelligence briefing, given his special access, he succeeded in gaining the attention and trust of the said spy service, and was assured that he would be under their support and protection.

Further, after receiving basic and specialized training in various fields, including:

- How to communicate securely,
- Destruction of documents and digital evidence

- How to leave the country,
- Creating a cover story and maintaining the security identity,

During his cooperation, the defendant was in contact with four intelligence officers of the Israeli spy service and actively transferred confidential information. The information provided included the following:

- Data and details related to data centers and critical national facilities
- Information about technical equipment and sensitive national projects
- Exact locations of sensitive sites, type of activities, and methods of entry and exit for each facility
- Profiles of key individuals (including photos, contact numbers, and other personal information)
- Strengths and weaknesses of the facilities, contracting companies, and information about personnel and workforce.

According to available documents, following the arrest of [REDACTED] in November 2023, Mr. Shahbazi, upon learning of the matter, proceeded to destroy his communication devices and intended to leave the country. On January 9, 2024, while attempting to exit the country en route to Georgia, he was arrested by judicial officers under the order of the judicial authority and in accordance with Islamic legal principles and the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The charges attributed to him include the following:

- Establishing communication with the intelligence service of the Zionist regime,
- Inciting and encouraging others to engage in espionage (including [REDACTED])
- Collecting and transferring confidential information,
- Receiving cash and cryptocurrency in exchange for providing information and cooperating with a foreign intelligence service.

In his initial statements, he explicitly declared that from 2021 to 2023, he had been in contact with the Mossad and transferred security, military, and non-military information of the country.

After being informed of the charges under the titles of "cooperation with a hostile government against the Islamic Republic of Iran," "espionage and intelligence cooperation in favor of the Zionist regime," he was transferred to a detention center under judicial supervision by order of the judicial authority.

## **2. Investigation Process and Issuance of Indictment**

Given the particular significance of the case and the extent of the defendant's criminal actions in providing confidential information, the investigation and interrogation process was initiated in the shortest possible time, under the direct supervision of the judicial authority and within the framework of current laws and regulations, with the aim of clarifying all aspects of the individual's activities and conduct.

During the investigation, all the defendant's defense rights, including the right to have a lawyer, the right to remain silent, and other rights stipulated in Articles 190, 194, 195, and 199 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, were fully observed.

Ultimately, after a thorough review of irrefutable evidence and documents, including:

- The defendant's explicit confession to establishing communication with the intelligence service of the Zionist regime,
- Receiving specialized training, collecting, and transferring information,
- Receiving cash and cryptocurrency in exchange for cooperation,
- Documented reports from judicial officers,
- Images, videos, and technical documents available in the case file,

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and after receiving the defendant's final defense statements, the preliminary investigation of the case was concluded.

On August 15, 2024, the investigating authority, having established the defendant's guilt, issued the final order for referral to trial and an indictment against him. The indictment was issued based on Article 508 of the Islamic Penal Code (Book Five of Ta'zirat and Deterrent Punishments) as well as Articles 6, 7, and 8 of the Law on Combating Hostile Actions of the Zionist Regime Against Peace and Security. The case file was then forwarded to the competent court for trial.

This process reflects full compliance with legal principles, reliance on documented and verifiable evidence, and adherence to the principles of a fair trial. Furthermore, at all stages, the provisions set forth in Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights have been fully observed.

### **3. Judicial Process of the Defendant's Case**

After the case was referred to the court, it was examined in full compliance with all legal regulations and international standards, including the principles set forth in Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. These principles include the presumption of innocence, the right to defense, the right to appeal, fair trial by a competent panel of judges, and other legal safeguards.

During the trial, after hearing the defendant's final statements and reviewing his explicit and sometimes contradictory confessions, and considering the documented reports from judicial officers indicating the defendant's extensive access to sensitive military sites and transfer of vital information to a foreign intelligence service, to the extent that he is recognized as one of the prominent spies of the enemy's intelligence, as well as a thorough examination of technical documents and other evidence and clues available in the case file, the court announced the conclusion of the proceedings on April 5, 2025.

The court, based on all the evidence, found the defendant's guilt to be clear and indisputable, and recognized his actions as clear examples of committing a

widespread crime against the country's internal and external security, which resulted in severe disruption of public order.

Accordingly, the court, pursuant to Article 6 of the Law on Combating Hostile Actions of the Zionist Regime Against Peace and Security, as well as Articles 279, paragraph (a) of Article 283, Article 286, and Article 211 of the Islamic Penal Code, issued a death sentence.

The issued verdict was communicated to the defendant and his attorneys, and following a request for appeal, the case was forwarded to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, with the presence of three senior judges, after a thorough review of the case contents and its compliance with the principles of a fair trial, religious provisions, and domestic laws, confirmed that the issued ruling was in accordance with the law as well as religious and international standards.

As a result, the issued verdict was confirmed on July 1, 2025, and communicated to the relevant authorities for enforcement.

#### **4. Execution of the Sentence and Matters Related to the Burial**

The execution of the sentence, after completing all legal procedures and necessary formalities, was carried out on September 17, 2025. Prior to the execution, official notification was given to the defendant, his legal counsel, and arrangements were made for a final meeting with his family. The burial was conducted with full adherence to religious, legal considerations, and the preservation of human dignity, at an appropriate location. It is worth noting that the necessary notifications were made, and the deceased's family was informed about the execution process and the issuance of the death certificate.

#### **5. Access to Lawyer and Rejection of Torture Allegations**

Based on the documents and contents of the case file, the claims regarding the defendant's lack of access to a lawyer and deprivation of contact with his family are completely unfounded and do not correspond to reality. The defendant enjoyed the right to have an official legal counsel at all stages of the trial. His

attorneys attended the hearings, submitted their defense pleadings, and defended their client.

At the preliminary investigation stage as well, in accordance with the Note to Article 48 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (ratified in 2013), in cases related to internal and external security, as well as organized crimes subject to the punishments outlined in Article 302 of the same law, the defendant is required to select a lawyer from among the officially approved attorneys by the Head of the Judiciary. In this case, all of the aforementioned regulations were fully observed, and the defendant benefited from all his legal rights throughout the proceedings.

Furthermore, the allegation of torture or coercion in obtaining a confession is entirely baseless and clearly contradicts the documented evidence in the case. The verdict was issued based on existing irrefutable evidence, documents, and proofs, and there is no indication or evidence suggesting that torture or coercion was used to extract a confession.

According to Article 38 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, all forms of torture for the purpose of extracting confessions or obtaining information are prohibited, and any confession obtained through such means is invalid. Furthermore, under Articles 570, 578, 579, and 587 of the Islamic Penal Code, as well as the provisions of the Law on Respect for Legitimate Freedoms and the Protection of Citizens' Rights, those who commit such acts are subject to severe punishments.

In order to ensure proper implementation of the law and to prevent any potential violations, the Central Oversight Committee, in cooperation with the Provincial Oversight Committees, conducts regular inspections and takes appropriate legal action in the event of any detected violations.

## **6. Conditions of Detention and Access to Medical Services**

Regarding the detention conditions of defendant and the provision of medical and healthcare services in prison, it is stated that all individuals, upon entry, undergo initial screening and medical examinations. Throughout the period of

detention or imprisonment, he had continuous (24-hour) access to prison healthcare services and medical staff, similar to all other detainees and convicts.

If specialized medical services are required, or if the prison's medical equipment is insufficient, there are no restrictions on transferring inmates to external medical facilities, in accordance with Article 137 of the Executive Regulations of the Prisons and Security and Corrective Measures Organization. According to the existing documentation in the prison file, Mr. Shahbazi was not subject to any legal restrictions regarding access to medical and healthcare services, and such access was fully provided to him.

## **7. Compatibility of the Death Sentence with International Human Rights Law**

According to Paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the right to life is considered a fundamental human right. At the same time, this paragraph states:

“In countries which have not abolished the death penalty, sentence of death may be imposed only for the most serious crimes in accordance with the law in force at the time of the commission of the crime and not contrary to the provisions of the present Covenant and to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This penalty can only be carried out pursuant to a final judgment rendered by a competent court”.

Accordingly, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights does not absolutely prohibit the death penalty but restricts its application to specific conditions, which include:

- Issuance of the death sentence solely for the most serious crimes.
- Compliance of the sentence and its execution with the laws in force at the time the crime was committed.
- Non-contradiction of domestic laws with the provisions of the Covenant and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.
- Issuance of a final judgment by a competent court.

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In assessing the compliance of these conditions with the present case, it is important to note that the actions committed by the defendant Shahbazi, including the transfer of information related to the country's vital and infrastructural centers to the enemy's intelligence service, resulting in serious and irreparable security damages, constitute clear examples of terrorist crimes and threats to national peace and security.

Such actions have not only endangered public security and the lives of citizens, but have also caused widespread disruption to the country's order and stability. Internationally, such crimes are recognized as "the most serious crimes".

With respect to the observance of the other conditions set forth in paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Covenant, all legal requirements have been fulfilled, as the judgment was issued pursuant to the applicable laws in force at the time of the commission of the offense, including the Islamic Penal Code and the Law on Countering Hostile Actions of the Zionist Regime Against Peace and Security. Accordingly, there is no inconsistency with the provisions of the said Covenant or the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Furthermore, the aforementioned judgment was issued by a competent court and, following a review by the Supreme Court, was definitively upheld.

Therefore, in light of all the above, the judgment issued in this case is fully consistent with the domestic laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the country's international obligations, including the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and does not, in any way, conflict with the principles and standards of human rights.