

Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

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5 September 2025

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 Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief and Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 55/19, 54/14, 53/4, 58/5 and 52/7.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information we have received concerning Mr. Babak Alipour, Mr. Vahid Bani Amerian, Mr. Akbar (Shahrokh) Daneshvarkar, Mr. Pouya Ghobadi, Mr. Abolhassan Montazer and Mr. Seyyed Mohammad Taghavi Sangdehi, who are reportedly at imminent risk of execution, following an unfair trial marred by torture allegations.

According to the information received:

The above mentioned six men have received death sentences for *baghi* (armed rebellion against the foundations of the Islamic Republic of Iran) based on their alleged connections with the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI). They were arrested between 22 December 2023 and 23 February 2024 in various locations, including Tehran and the Chaldoran border. It is alleged that no arrest warrants were presented, and that excessive force and threats were used during arrest. Mr. Alipour was tackled from behind, beaten, including to his stomach and genitals, and threatened with execution. Mr. Bani Amerian and Mr. Montazer were beaten and arrested together, with the former being shot. Mr. Daneshvarkar was beaten during a home raid and threatened with the arrest of his wife and child. Mr. Ghobadi and Mr. Taghavi were arrested at the Chaldoran border and subjected to beatings.

Following their arrests, the men were eventually all moved to Evin Prison. They were subject to prolonged incommunicado detention and solitary confinement. Mr. Alipour spent 32 days in solitary confinement and had no access to his lawyer or family for months. Mr. Bani Amerian spent 48 days in solitary confinement and five months without a lawyer and 48 days without family contact. Mr. Daneshvarkar spent two months in solitary confinement, was denied family contact and counsel. Mr. Taghavi Sangdehi spent 244 days in solitary confinement and more than eight months without access to legal counsel. Mr. Ghobadi was confined in a solitary cell for approximately three months and was also deprived of contact with his family for an extended period.

The six individuals were subjected to multiple forms of physical and psychological torture, ill-treatment and threats during detention. Interrogators allegedly threatened summary execution against Mr. Alipour, Mr. Bani Amerian and Mr. Taghavi Sangdehi. Mr. Alipour was coerced to make statements on camera, dictated by the interrogation team. Mr. Daneshvarkar was flogged while bound to a bench, and Mr. Ghobadi was threatened with flogging. The severe beating that Mr. Montazer allegedly resulted in the rupture of stitches from a prior open-heart surgery. Mr. Ghobadi and Mr. Taghavi Sangdehi were placed in unheated cells in winter. Mr. Alipour was forbidden from observing religious practices. Medical neglect was also reported, including failure to provide proper examinations, withholding of necessary treatment, and deliberate exposure to cold.

All six were tried jointly on 6 October 2024 before Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court of Tehran for *baghi* with each defendant facing varied additional security-related charges. The proceedings reportedly failed to meet due process and fair-trial guarantees, including late access to chosen counsel, reliance on coerced confessions extracted under torture, and failure to investigate torture allegations. The hearings were extremely brief, with defendants granted merely minutes to present a defence. At least three of the men reportedly met their attorneys for the first time on the day of trial.

On 30 November 2024, all six men were sentenced to death for *baghi*. Some received long prison sentences in addition to the death sentence: Mr. Bani Amerian was sentenced for 10 years' imprisonment; Mr. Daneshvarkar for 20 years; Mr. Montazer for 10 years. All six men have lodged an appeal awaiting review; all cases were sent directly to the Supreme Court. In similar cases, the Supreme Court has reportedly confirmed death sentences abruptly, with executions carried out within days, raising serious concern that executions in these cases could be imminent.

In June 2025 and following Israel's attack on Evin Prison, all six men were transferred to the Greater Tehran Penitentiary (Fashafouyeh). On 8 August 2025, Mr. Daneshvarkar, Mr. Taghavi Sangdehi, Mr. Ghobadi, Mr. Bani Amerian and Mr. Alipour were transferred to Ghezel Hesar Prison, in Alborz province, where they are reportedly confined in solitary cells. Mr. Abolhassan Montazer was transferred to Ghezel Hesar under the pretext of medical treatment, raising urgent concerns about imminent execution since this facility serves as a primary site for executions in Tehran and Alborz provinces.

While we do not wish to prejudge the accuracy of these allegations, we express grave concern about the imminent risk of execution concerning Mr. Alipour, Mr. Bani Amerian, Mr. Daneshvarkar, Mr. Ghobadi, Mr. Montazer and Mr. Taghavi Sangdehi. Moreover, we are seriously concerned at information indicating that the judicial proceedings in all six cases did not fulfil the requirements for due process and a fair trial under international human rights law, rendering such sentences unfair and the death penalty unlawful. Given the uncertainty surrounding any review or retrial, we are deeply concerned about the imminent risk of executions.

We would like to bring to your attention the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) ratified by your Excellency's Government on 24 June 1975. Article 6(1) of the ICCPR prohibits the arbitrary deprivation of life and article 6(2) specifies that the death penalty may be imposed only for the most serious crimes and subject to strict conditions. In general comment No. 36 (para. 35), the Human Rights Committee has clarified that "most serious crimes" must be read restrictively to mean crimes of extreme gravity involving intentional killing, consistent with the United Nations Safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty (ECOSOC resolution 1984/50). In addition, the Human Rights Committee has clarified that violations of fair trial guarantees, as outlined in article 14 of the ICCPR, leading to a death sentence render that sentence arbitrary and contrary to article 6. This includes, inter alia, coerced confessions, lack of effective legal representation throughout judicial proceedings, failure to respect the presumption of innocence (GC36, para. 41).

We further recall that the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of life is non-derogable, regardless of contexts of internal political instability or any other public emergency (Human Rights Committee, general comment No. 36, para. 2).

We also recall that the prohibition on torture is a *jus cogens* norm of international law, and is further expressed in treaty form in article 7 of the ICCPR on the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the obligation to criminalize, investigate, prosecute and punish such acts, and to provide remedies to victims; and article 10 of the ICCPR which mandates humane and dignified treatment of all persons deprived of their liberty. We would also like to bring to your attention the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) as adopted by the General Assembly resolution 70/175, which set international standards for the treatment of prisoners, including requirements for adequate accommodation, hygiene, access to health and the right of religion and belief. These are complemented by the 1988 Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment. Additionally, UN General Assembly Resolution 68/156 (para. 28) emphasizes that detention conditions must respect human dignity and urges States to prevent treatment that may constitute torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment.

With regard to the alleged enforced disappearance, if confirmed, it would amount to violations of articles 6, 7, 9 and 16 of the ICCPR, read alone and in conjunction with article 2(3). Moreover, it would entail a violation of article 7, read alone and in conjunction with article 2(3) of the ICCPR with regard to the relatives of the disappeared person. We are further drawing your Excellency's Government's attention to the absolute and non-derogable prohibition of enforced disappearances (articles 2 and 7) which has attained the status of *jus cogens*. We wish to reiterate that duration is not a constitutive element of enforced disappearance under international human rights law, therefore regardless of the duration of an enforced disappearance, it produces serious harm and consequences for the disappeared and their families, and also presents practical challenges as regards seeking protection as well as defence of their rights (reaffirmed in 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).

Moreover, with regard to solitary confinement, we wish to clarify that in international law, as specified inter alia in the Nelson Mandela Rules (rules 43-45) and the Human Rights Committee's general comment No 20, indefinite and prolonged (longer than 15 days) solitary confinement are prohibited as forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

We recall that article 18 of the ICCPR states that that "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. The Human Rights Committee has noted in general comment No. 22, paragraph 3, that article 18 of the ICCPR "Does not permit any limitations whatsoever on the freedom of thought and conscience [...]". Thus, peaceful expression of one's thought and conscience cannot be restricted unless such restrictions have fulfilled stringent tests of legality, proportionality and necessity. We also refer the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), in particular rule 65 and 66, which specifically notes that "So far as practicable, every prisoner shall be allowed to satisfy the needs of his or her religious life by attending the services provided in the prison and having in his or her possession the books of religious observance and instruction of his or her denomination."

We remind your Excellency's Government that a violation of the fair-trial guarantees provided in article 14 of the ICCPR, resulting in the imposition of the death penalty, would render the sentence arbitrary in nature and in violation of article 6. Such violations may include the use of forced confessions (a concurrent violation of article 7); lack of effective representation at all stages; failure to respect the presumption of innocence; lack of an effective right of appeal; lack of adequate time and facilities for the preparation of the defence; and a general lack of fairness of the criminal process, including lack of independence or impartiality of the trial or appeal court.

We further refer your Excellency's Government to articles 12 and 2(2) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) ratified by your Excellency's government on 24 June 1975 and to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights' general comment No. 14 (para. 34), which establish the obligation to respect the right to health by, inter alia, refraining from denying or limiting equal access for all persons, including prisoners and detainees, to preventive, curative and palliative health services. We also recall the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners (General Assembly resolution 45/111), according to which prisoners should have access to health services available in the country without discrimination on the grounds of their legal situation (principle 9). Additionally, we refer to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Mandela Rules) (A/RES/70/175), which recognize the responsibility of States to provide health care for prisoners, free of charge and without discrimination (rule 24), paying special attention to those with special health-care needs (rule 25), and providing for transfer to specialized institutions or civil hospitals where required (rule 27).

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 on the initial steps taken by your Excellency's Government to safeguard the rights of the above-mentioned person(s) 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 be grateful for your observations on the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional information and any comment you may have on the above-mentioned allegations.
2. Please explain how the charge of *baghi* and imposing the death penalty in these cases, is consistent with article 6 ICCPR and paragraph 35 of general comment No. 36, and how it complies with your Excellency's Government's obligations under international human rights law.
3. Please explain the steps taken to ensure due process and fair-trial guarantees including timely access to chosen counsel, the right to prepare a defence, and the exclusion of any statements allegedly obtained under torture or coercion.
4. Please provide detailed information on measures taken, or foreseen, to ensure full and impartial investigations, independent medical examinations, and judicial or other inquiries in relation to the allegations of enforced disappearance, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. If measures have been undertaken, please make available the results of the investigations. Please share how the UN Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (2022 ed) is applied. If no such measures have been taken, please explain how this is compatible with Iran's international human rights obligations.
5. Please indicate the status of the cases before the Supreme Court and what legal avenues remain available to these individuals to appeal, seek review, or request commutation or pardon.
6. Please provide detailed information on the reason for transfer of the prisoners to Ghezel Hesar prison and their current whereabouts and conditions of detention and their state of health.

This communication and any response received from your Excellency's Government will be made public via the communications reporting [website](#) within 60 days. They will also subsequently be made available in the usual report to be presented to the Human Rights Council.

While awaiting a reply, we urge that all necessary interim measures be taken to prevent any irreparable harm to the life and personal integrity of Mr. Babak Alipour, Mr. Vahid Bani Amerian, Mr. Akbar (Shahrokh) Daneshvarkar, Mr. Pouya Ghobadi, Mr. Abolhassan Montazer and Mr. Seyyed Mohammad Taghavi Sangdehi and stay their execution, to halt the alleged violations and to prevent their re-occurrence and in

the event that the investigations support or suggest the allegations to be correct, to ensure the accountability of any person responsible of the alleged violations.

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

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