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Head of judiciary

Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei

**c/o** Embassy of Iran to the European Union

Avenue Franklin Roosevelt No. 15

1050 Bruxelles

Belgium

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Dear Mr Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei,

**Hadi Rostami (38), Mehdi Sharfian (42) and Mehdi Shahivand (29) – held in Urumieh Central Prison, West Azerbaijan province – are at imminent risk of having their finger amputation sentences carried out.** On 14 April 2025, the deputy prosecutor of Urumieh, in the presence of the head of the Office for the Implementation of Sentences, and the head of Urumieh Central prison informed them that judicial authorities have ordered a guillotine machine to the prison to implement their amputation sentences in the coming days. In March 2025, Hadi Rostami wrote a letter from prison with a plea for help, stating, «[Authorities] want to cut off my hand for a crime I did not commit. I call on human rights organizations, the United Nations, and the international community to take urgent action to prevent the implementation of this inhumane sentence».

Hadi Rostami, Mehdi Sharfian and Mehdi Shahivand were arrested in 2017 and convicted of robbery in 2019 after a grossly unfair trial. They were denied access to lawyers during the investigation phase of their case and courts relied on forced «confessions» to convict them. The men have said they were forced to make the «confessions» under torture and retracted them during trial. According to informed sources, the men were tortured through being beaten, kicked, flogged with a cable and hung from their wrists and feet during interrogations. Hadi Rostami’s hand was broken; interrogators also removed Mehdi Shahivand’s trousers and threatened to rape him with a piece of wood if he refused to make «confessions» incriminating himself and the other two men. The authorities dismissed their torture allegations and failed to order investigations into them. According to their court verdict, reviewed by Amnesty International, they are sentenced to «have four fingers on their right hands completely cut off so only the palm of their hands and thumbs are left». Since their conviction, they have gone on multiple hunger strikes to protest inhumane prison conditions and repeated threats to carry out their amputation sentences. Hadi Rostami has attempted suicide several times, including by swallowing pieces of broken glass, resulting in serious health complications for which the authorities denied him adequate medical care. In February 2021, the authorities flogged him 60 times in prison after convicting him of «disrupting prison order» in reprisal for hunger strikes.

Torture is a crime under international law. Iranian authorities are obliged, under international law, to prohibit and punish torture in all circumstances and without exception. Those responsible for ordering and carrying out the crime of torture are liable to criminal prosecution under international law.

**I urge you to immediately halt plans to carry out the finger amputation sentences of Hadi Rostami, Mehdi Sharfian and Mehdi Shahivand, quash their convictions and amputation sentences and grant them fair retrials without resorting to corporal punishments. I urge you to protect them from further torture, give them access to any medical care they need and investigate their torture allegations, bringing anyone suspected of responsibility to justice in fair trials. More broadly, I call on you to abolish all forms of corporal punishment in law and practice.**

Yours sincerely,

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**Copie**

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