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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,

**Six Iranian men Abolhassan Montazer, 65, Akbar (Shahrokh) Daneshvarkar, 58, Babak Alipour, 33, Mohammad Taghavi Sangdehi, 58, Pouya Ghobadi, 31, and Vahid Bani Amerian, 32, are at risk of execution after Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court of Tehran convicted them of «armed rebellion against the state» (baghi) following a grossly unfair trial in October 2024 on allegations of being affiliated with a banned opposition group, the People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI)**. The men have repeatedly denied all accusations of taking arms against the state. The men were also convicted and sentenced to prison terms for other offenses, including «gathering and colluding to commit crimes against national security». They were arrested between late December 2023 and late February 2024 in Tehran and West Azerbaijan provinces, and subsequently held in section 209 of Tehran’s Evin prison, which is under the control of the Ministry of Intelligence. According to informed sources, agents subjected the men to torture and other ill-treatment at the time of arrest and/or during interrogations including through repeated beatings, floggings, restricting access to toilet facilities, prolonged solitary confinement and death threats at gunpoint. They are all held in Evin prison, and an appeal to the Supreme Court remains pending.

The Iranian authorities have flagrantly violated the fair trial rights of Abolhassan Montazer, Akbar (Shahrokh) Daneshvarkar, Babak Alipour, Mohammad Taghavi Sangdehi, Pouya Ghobadi and Vahid Bani Amerian, including, to access a lawyer from the time of arrest; to meaningfully challenge the legality of their detention; not be compelled to self-incriminate, including as a result of torture or other ill-treatment; and to be tried before by an independent, competent and impartial tribunal. Their trial was grossly unfair with at least three of the men seeing their lawyers at trial for the first time, which consisted of a single two-hour session. According to information obtained by Amnesty International, during trial, several of the men and their lawyers told the court that forced «confessions» were extracted under torture and other ill-treatment and could not be relied upon as evidence. No investigation is known to have been ordered by the court into these allegations. The authorities have denied and/or severely delayed access to adequate healthcare for the men, several of whom have serious health conditions.

**I urge you to immediately halt any plans to execute Abolhassan Montazer, Akbar (Shahrokh) Daneshvarkar, Babak Alipour, Mohammad Taghavi Sangdehi, Pouya Ghobadi and Vahid Bani Amerian, quash their convictions and death sentences and release them as their detention is arbitrary due to severely grave violations of their fair trial rights.**

**I further urge you to provide them access to their families and lawyers, protect them from further torture and other ill-treatment and investigate torture allegations, bringing anyone found responsible to justice in fair trials and without resort to the death penalty. I urge you to immediately establish an official moratorium on executions with a view of abolishing the death penalty.**

Yours sincerely,

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**Copie**

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