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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,

**On 23 February 2025, the lawyers of Behrouz Ehsani, 69, and Mehdi Hassani, 48, learned that Branch Nine of the Supreme Court has rejected their request for a judicial review of their case, placing them at imminent risk of execution. In the past two weeks, the authorities have denied them contact with their families, raising fears among relatives that they may be planning to carry out their executions in secret.**

Behrouz Ehsani and Mehdi Hassani were tried jointly in a five-minute trial on 10 August 2024 in grossly unfair proceedings before Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran. They were denied access to their lawyers for nearly two years, from the time of arrest until weeks before trial. Their torture allegations were not investigated; they were not allowed to speak during their trial; and they were denied trial by an independent, competent and impartial tribunal. On 15 September 2024, they were sentenced to death on charges of «armed rebellion against the state» (baghi), «enmity against God» (moharebeh) and «corruption on earth» (efsad-e felarz) in relation to their alleged support of the People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), a banned opposition group. On 7 January 2025, the authorities notified their lawyers that their convictions and death sentences had been upheld by the Supreme Court.

Ministry of Intelligence agents arrested Behrouz Ehsani on 28 November 2022 in Tehran and Mehdi Hassani on 9 September 2022 in Zanjan province. According to informed sources, agents denied them contact with their families, interrogated them without lawyers present and subjected them to torture and other ill-treatment, including beatings and prolonged solitary confinement, to extract self-incriminating statements. Agents held Behrouz Ehsani in solitary confinement for 50 days in section 240 of Tehran’s Evin prison and pressured him to make forced «confessions» under torture and other ill-treatment, including through threats to flog and execute him and arrest and otherwise harm his family. He refused to make forced «confessions». He was then moved to Section 209 for 75 days before being moved to a general ward alongside other prisoners. According to an informed source, for six months following arrest, agents held Mehdi Hassani in solitary confinement and forced him to write self-incriminating statements under torture and other ill-treatment, including beatings and threats to harm his family. The informed source told Amnesty International that, in these written statements, Mehdi Hassani specified that he was being forced to write them under torture and other ill-treatment.

**I urge you to immediately halt any plans to execute Behrouz Ehsani and Mehdi Hassani, quash their convictions and sentences and release them as their detention is arbitrary due to severely grave violations of their fair trial rights. I further urge you to grant them immediate access to their families, independently chosen lawyers and to any adequate medical care they may need; and protect them from further torture and other ill-treatment and investigate their torture allegations, bringing anyone found responsible to justice in fair trials without resort to the death penalty. Finally, I urge you to immediately establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.**

Yours sincerely,

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**Copie**

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