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Head of judiciary

Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei

**c/o** Embassy of Iran to the United Nations
Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28
1209 Genève

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Dear Mr Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei,

**Hundreds of prisoners from Tehran’s Evin prison have been displaced to other prisons with cruel and inhuman conditions in Tehran province after the Israeli military’s deliberate air strikes destroyed large parts of Evin prison through on 23 June**. Direct attacks on civilian objects, such as prisons, are serious violations of international humanitarian law. At the time of the air strikes, Evin prison housed hundreds of prisoners, including two mothers with toddlers. The authorities released one mother and child but moved the second pair with the other 70 or so women prisoners to Shahr-e Ray prison (also known as Gharchark prison). The women prisoners were put into two small rooms and a corridor with only two toilets and two showers. Around 180 male prisoners were moved to the Greater Tehran Central Penitentiary (also known as Fashafouyeh prison) and crammed into four rooms with a maximum capacity of 80. According to informed sources, many prisoners were not allowed to gather their belongings and were transferred in handcuffs and shackles while being subjected to beatings. These prisons have dire conditions: severe overcrowding, worsened by the new influx of prisoners; filthy, insufficient bathroom facilities; poor ventilation; insect infestations; lack of food and potable water; and a severe bed shortage forcing prisoners sleep on the floor. Prisoners, including older ones with health conditions, are being denied adequate medical care.

The authorities are also refusing to disclose the fate or whereabouts of dozens of other prisoners who were held in sections 2A, 209, 240 and 241 of Evin prison at the time of the air strikes, which may amount to enforced disappearance, a crime under international law. These sections were used for holding those accused or convicted of «national security» charges. This has raised fears among families that the prisoners may have been killed or injured by the Israeli air strikes or are at heightened risk of torture and other ill-treatment. Hundreds of the prisoners affected by the events since 23 June had been arbitrarily detained. They include human rights defenders; protesters; dissidents; members of the persecuted Baha’i minority; and others detained solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly and/or freedom of religion; dual and foreign nationals; and those detained for debt.

**I urge you to immediately release all prisoners arbitrarily detained and consider releasing other prisoners, especially pre-trial detainees and those eligible for conditional release. I further urge you to immediately disclose the fate and whereabouts of all prisoners who were held in sections 2A, 209, 240 and 241 of Evin prison at the time of the Israeli air strikes on 23 June. I call on you to grant all prisoners access to their families and lawyers, protect them from torture and other ill-treatment and to take all measures to protect the right to life and health of all prisoners, ensuring that different categories of prisoners are held separately, all are given adequate medical care and are treated humanely in line with international standards. Finally, I urge you to allow international monitors to conduct prison inspection visits.**

Yours sincerely,

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**Copie**

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