Head of the Judiciary, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei

Care of HE Mr Ahmad Sadeghi, Ambassador

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran

PO Box 705 Mawson ACT 2607. Email amb.office@iranembassy.org.au

Dear Mr Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei,

Reza (Gholamreza) Rasaei, aged 34, from Iran’s oppressed Kurdish and Yaresan ethnic and religious minorities, is at imminent risk of execution in relation to the “Woman Life Freedom” uprising in 2022. He has exhausted all available legal avenues and his death sentence has been sent for implementation. On 7 October 2023, Criminal Court One in Kermanshah Province sentenced him to death in connection with the death of a commander of the Intelligence Organization of the Revolutionary Guards in Sahneh, Kermanshah Province, during a protest on 18 November 2022. Branch 17 of the Supreme Court upheld the verdict on 16 December 2023 and Branch One of the Supreme Court rejected his request for judicial review on 16 January 2024. Both Supreme Court branches disregarded exculpatory evidence, including key witness testimonies and his lawyer’s submissions on the flawed criminal investigations and the omission of forensic and other evidence. These submissions also highlighted that a key witness recanted his initial statements implicating Reza Rasaei in the commander’s death, stating that he had made them under torture and other ill-treatment. Reza Rasaei has repeatedly denied any involvement in the security official’s death and stated, including during trial, that his forced “confessions” were extracted through torture and other ill-treatment when he was held in solitary confinement without access to a lawyer. Authorities have violated Reza Rasaei’s fair trial rights, including access to a lawyer from the time of arrest, the rights to meaningfully challenge the legality of his detention, to not self-incriminate, to be tried by an independent, competent and impartial tribunal, and to a meaningful review by a higher tribunal.

Reza Rasaei was arrested in November 2022. He was subjected to enforced disappearance for the first four months of his detention. According to an informed source, during this time agents from the Intelligence Organization of the Revolutionary Guards interrogated him and subjected him to torture and other ill-treatment, including electric shocks, suffocation by placing a plastic bag over his head, prolonged suspension, severe beatings and sexual violence to compel him to make forced “confessions.” Authorities have denied him access to adequate healthcare, including for broken fingers and toes, and other torture-related injuries. No investigations are known to have been carried out into his torture allegations.

I urge you to halt immediately any plans to execute Reza Rasaei, quash his conviction and death sentence and release him, as his detention is rendered arbitrary due to grave violations of his fair trial rights. If he is charged with an internationally recognizable criminal offence, he must be given a fair retrial without recourse to the death penalty, excluding “confessions” obtained under torture and other ill-treatment. Pending his release, grant him regular access to his family, chosen lawyer and adequate medical care; protect him from further torture and other ill-treatment; and investigate his torture allegations, bringing anyone found responsible to justice in fair trials. Finally, I call on you to grant independent observers access to capital trials connected to protests and immediately establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,

Name:

Address: