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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,

**Iranian Kurdish dissidents Pejman Fatehi, Vafa Azarbar, Mohammad (Hazhir) Faramarzi and Mohsen Mazloum, who have been subjected to enforced disappearance since their arrests in July 2022, are at grave risk of execution in secret without prior notice to their families or lawyers**. The men’s families and independent lawyer learned that their death sentences were upheld by the Supreme Court on 2 January 2024 and sent to the Office for Implementation of Sentences in Tehran. On 16 January 2024, the men’s independent lawyer stated on X (formerly Twitter) that his request for judicial review was rejected as copies of because he was unable to attach copies of the verdict to the request for review, as required by Iranian law. The authorities have refused to reveal the men’s whereabouts, disclose the exact charges of which they were convicted, grant their independent lawyer access to their casefiles and provide copies of the verdicts issued in secret by Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court and the Supreme Court. On 14 January 2024, their families gathered outside Evin Prison in Tehran, where they suspect their loved ones are held, to protest their death sentences and demand visitation. In reprisal, the Ministry of Intelligence summoned the family members of the four men and threatened them with death, torture and imprisonment if they continued to protest and enquire about their loved ones. The Iranian authorities’ campaign of harassment and intimidation against the families coupled with their consistent denial of information about their loved ones’ fate and whereabouts, increasing their anguish and suffering, violates the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment.

The convictions and death sentences against the four men follow serious violations of fair trial rights, including to a lawyer of their choosing from the time of arrest, adequate defence, a fair and public trial, presumption of innocence, not self-incriminate, remain silent, and a meaningful review by a higher tribunal. On 6 January 2024, their independent lawyer stated on X that he was merely their lawyer «on paper», having never been allowed any access to his clients. Following their arrests on 20 July 2022 by the Ministry of Intelligence in West Azerbaijan province, Iran’s state TV aired a propaganda video on 12 October and 5 December 2022, showing the four men «confessing» to planning to bomb an industrial estate near Esfahan, at the instructions of the Israeli intelligence. Amnesty International has long documented the pattern of the Iranian authorities extracting forced false «confessions» under torture or other ill-treatment.

**I urge you to immediately disclose the fate and whereabouts of Pejman Fatehi, Vafa Azarbar, Mohammad (Hazhir) Faramarzi and Mohsen Mazloum, halt any plans to execute them and quash their convictions and death sentences. If charged with a recognizable criminal offence, grant them fair retrials without recourse to the death penalty and excluding coerced «confessions». I also urge you to protect them from torture and other ill-treatment, and grant them immediate and regular access to their families and lawyers of their choosing. Finally, immediately establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.**

Yours sincerely,

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**Copie**

Botschaft der Islamischen Republik Iran, Thunstrasse 68, Postfach 227, 3000 Bern 6

Fax: 031 351 56 52 / E-mail: secretariat@iranembassy.ch / Twitter: iraninbern