\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Head of judiciary

Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei

**c/o** Embassy of Iran to the European Union

Avenue Franklin Roosevelt No. 15

1050 Bruxelles

Belgium

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mr Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei,

**Verisheh (Wrishe) Moradi, 39, from Iran’s oppressed Kurdish ethnic minority and a member of the group East Kurdistan Free Woman Society (known by the acronym KJAR), is at risk of execution after Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court of Tehran sentenced her to death in early November 2024 following a grossly unfair trial**. She was convicted of «armed rebellion against the state» (baghi) in relation to allegations of her affiliation with Kurdish opposition groups. Her appeal is pending before the Supreme Court.

On 1 August 2023, Ministry of Intelligence agents violently arrested Verisheh Moradi in Sanandaj, Kurdistan province, and subjected her to enforced disappearance for nearly four months by refusing to disclose her whereabouts to her family. In an August 2024 open letter from prison, Verisheh Moradi revealed that agents subjected her to torture and other ill-treatment during arrest. She wrote that she was held in a Ministry of Intelligence detention facility in Sanandaj for 13 days in solitary confinement, where according to an informed source, agents subjected her to gender-based violence before transferring her in August 2023 to section 209 of Tehran’s Evin prison. She wrote that there, agents held her in prolonged solitary confinement for over four months and interrogated her without a lawyer. She added that agents subjected her to torture and other ill-treatment, including execution threats, to compel her to make forced «confessions» about taking up arms with Kurdish groups against the Islamic Republic of Iran, which she has repeatedly denied. In late December 2023, she was transferred to the women’s ward of Evin prison.

Verisheh Moradi’s trial, which consisted of two sessions on 16 June and 5 October 2024, was grossly unfair. During both trial sessions, the court barred both her and her lawyer from presenting a defence; and her lawyer was permitted to review her casefile only after the second session concluded. Since her arrest, the authorities prosecuted her in a separate case and carried out further reprisals against her for her peaceful activism in prison, including protests against the escalated use of the death penalty in Iran. After a three-week long hunger strike in October 2024, her pre-existing intestinal issues were ex-acerbated, but the authorities continue to deny her access to adequate health care. For most of her detention, authorities have denied and/or severely limited her contact with family, including since May 2024 when they barred her from family visits.

**I urge you to immediately halt any plans to execute Verisheh Moradi, quash her conviction and death sentence, and release her as her detention is arbitrary due to severe non-observance of her fair trial rights. Pending her release, provide her with adequate healthcare, including outside prison if necessary, and regular visits from family and lawyers; protect her from further torture and other ill-treatment, and order an independent, effective and impartial investigation into her torture allegation, bringing anyone suspected of criminal responsibility to justice in fair trials without recourse to the death penalty. Also, immediately establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty.**

Yours sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Copie**

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

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