

SAMPLE LETTER TARGETING THE JUDICIARY

Please find below the sample text for a letter/online petition targeting the Supreme Leader, the Head of the Judiciary and the Prosecutor General of Tehran.

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express concern regarding the continued use of the death penalty against juvenile offenders – individuals convicted of crimes committed when they were under the age of 18 – in Iran.

Between 2005 and 2015, Amnesty International recorded at least 73 executions of juvenile offenders in Iran, an appalling record that has cemented Iran's shameful status as the top official executioner of juvenile offenders in the world. Such executions constitute an egregious violation of Iran's obligations under international law, including under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), both of which are binding on Iran, and strictly prohibit the use of the death penalty against juvenile offenders.

A UN report issued in August 2014 stated that more than 160 juvenile offenders were on death row in Iranian prisons. The adoption of a new Islamic Penal Code (IPC) in May 2013 sparked cautious hopes that the situation of these juvenile offenders would finally begin to improve in practice, even though the IPC continues to stand in stark violation of international law under which judges or courts must not, under any circumstances, have the authority to sentence juvenile offenders to death.

I am, however, deeply concerned that recent developments have increasingly undermined these hopes. The authorities have continued to schedule and carry out the execution of juvenile offenders, without informing them of their right to file an application for re-trial on the basis of the IPC. Even when re-trials have happened, in several cases the courts have resented juvenile offenders to death after concluding that they were mature and understood the consequences of their actions.

I respectfully remind you that as a state party to the CRC, Iran is obliged to treat everyone under the age of 18 as a child, and ensure that individuals are never sentenced to death or life imprisonment for crimes committed when they were a child, irrespective of their real or supposed maturity.

I therefore urge you to:

- Commute, without delay, the death sentences of all juvenile offenders, including: Abumuslem Sohrabi, Ahmad Sajedi, Ali Amouyee, Alireza Pour Olfat, Amanj Veisee, Amir Amrollahi, Asou Sohrabi, Barzan Nasrollahzadeh, Bahaoddin Ghasemzadeh, Farhad, Hamid Ahmadi, Hamid Ali Mohammadi, Hassan Rezaiee, Himan Uraminejad, Hossein Baharloe, Hossein Ranjbar, Iman Shahmoradi, Jamal Dehghan, Mahyar Haghgou, Mehdi Bohlouli, Mehdi Sajedi, Mehdi Soltani, Milad Azimi, Milad Bashghareh, Milad Sanian, Mohammad Ahsani, Mohammad Ali Shirzadi, Mohammad Ali Zehi, Mohammad Fadai, Mohammad Reza Haddadi, Mojtaba Mojaveri, Morteza Zakeri, Nasir Borhan Zehi, Navid Yaghmaei, Rasoul Holoumi, Razieh Ebrahimi, Saeed Arab, Saeed Elahian, Sajad Sanjari, Salar Shadzadi, Saman Haidary, Saman Naseem, Seyed Morteza Seyedi, Shahab Dir, Siavash Mahmoudi, Yaghoub Royan, Yaser Ansari and Yousef Mohammadi; and
- Take immediate steps to ensure that the death penalty may never be imposed and carried out for crimes committed when a person was under 18 years of age.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]