

URGENT ACTION

KURDISH ACTIVIST AT RISK OF IMMINENT EXECUTION

Humanitarian worker and human rights defender, Pakhshan Azizi, from Iran's oppressed Kurdish minority, is at risk of imminent execution. On February 5, 2025, her lawyers were notified that Branch Nine of the Supreme Court rejected her request for judicial review. In July 2024, a Revolutionary Court sentenced her to death following a grossly unfair trial solely in relation to her peaceful humanitarian and human rights activities. In January 2025, the Supreme Court upheld the sentence. Her allegations of torture and other ill-treatment were never investigated.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **Second UA 87.24**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Head of judiciary, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei,
c/o Embassy of Iran to the United Nations in Geneva
Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28, 1209 Geneva,
Switzerland

Send a copy of your letter to the address listed below

c/o Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations
622 3rd Ave, 34th floor,
New York, NY 10017
Email: iranunny@mfa.gov.ir

Dear Mr. Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei,

Humanitarian aid worker and human rights defender, **Pakhshan Azizi**, 40, from Iran's oppressed Kurdish ethnic minority, is at risk of imminent execution after Branch Nine of the Supreme Court rejected her request for judicial review on January 25, 2025. Her conviction, which included "armed rebellion against the state" (baghi), was solely in relation to her peaceful human rights and humanitarian activities.

According to informed sources, following her arrest in August 2023, Pakhshan Azizi was subjected to torture and other ill-treatment in order to compel her to make forced "confessions" of having ties to Kurdish opposition groups, which she repeatedly denied. Pakhshan Azizi's trial in 2024 was grossly unfair. She was denied adequate time and facilities to prepare her defense. In addition, the courts have repeatedly failed to present any credible evidence of her alleged membership in Kurdish opposition groups.

I urge you to immediately halt any plans to execute Pakhshan Azizi, quash her conviction and death sentence, and release her immediately and unconditionally, as she is held solely for her peaceful humanitarian work and human rights activism. Pending her release, provide her with adequate healthcare and regular access to family and lawyers; protect her from further torture and other ill-treatment; and order an impartial investigation into her torture allegations, bringing anyone suspected of criminal responsibility to justice in fair trials without resort to the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On August 4, 2023, agents from the Ministry of Intelligence arbitrarily arrested **Pakhshan Azizi** in Tehran and transferred her to section 209 of Evin prison, which is under the control of the Ministry of Intelligence, and held her there in prolonged solitary confinement for five months without access to a lawyer and her family. Pakhshan Azizi was tried before Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court over two trial sessions on May 28 and June 16, 2024. In addition to convicting Pakhshan Azizi of “armed rebellion against the state” (baghi), the Revolutionary Court also sentenced Pakhshan Azizi to four years in prison on the national security related offense of “membership of an opposition group [against] the country (PJAK) [Free Life Party of Kurdistan]”. In its ruling upholding Pakhshan Azizi’s conviction and death sentence in early January 2025, Branch 39 of the Supreme Court incorrectly asserted, without citing any evidence, that Pakhshan Azizi was a member of the Islamic State (IS) armed group. In the verdict, Branch Nine of the Supreme Court also did not present any evidence of her membership with the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran. Pakhshan Azizi has repeatedly denied being a member of any Kurdish opposition group, and according to informed sources, provided the courts extensive evidence documenting her humanitarian work supporting women and children displaced following attacks by the IS and sheltering in camps in northeast Syria.

In reprisal for Pakhshan Azizi’s ongoing human rights activism from prison, authorities opened two new cases against her and have been denying her in-person family visits since early July 2024. They only permit her visits communicating through a glass screen and a phone. In a separate case, in October 2024, a criminal court in Tehran sentenced Pakhshan Azizi to six months in prison for protesting along with several others in the women’s ward of Evin prison against the authorities’ intensified use of the death penalty.

In the aftermath of the “Woman Life Freedom” uprising, Iranian authorities have intensified their use of the death penalty to instill fear among the population and tighten their grip on power. This escalation includes the use of the death penalty against oppressed ethnic minorities, including Baluchis and Kurds. At least two other woman, Kurdish dissident [Verisheh Moradi](#) and human rights defender [Sharifeh Mohammadi](#), are also under sentence death after Revolutionary Courts convicted them of “armed rebellion against the state” (baghi) in separate cases. Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception. Ethnic minorities in Iran, including Kurds, face widespread discrimination, curtailing their access to education, employment, adequate housing, and political office. Amnesty International has also repeatedly [documented](#) how the Iranian authorities target individuals from Iran’s Kurdish ethnic minority for arbitrary arrest and detention based on their real or perceived support for or association with Kurdish parties, and do not provide sufficient evidence of their direct or indirect involvement in internationally recognizable offenses.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Persian, English, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: April 30, 2025

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Pakhshan Azizi (her/she).

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-kurdish-woman-activist-sentenced-to-death-iran-87-24/>