

URGENT ACTION

MEN AT RISK OF FINGER AMPUTATION WITHIN DAYS

Three prisoners – Hadi Rostami, Mehdi Shahivand, and Mehdi Sharfian – are at grave risk of having their finger-amputation sentences carried out as early as April 11, 2025 in Urumieh Central prison, West Azerbaijan province. Since their conviction and sentencing in 2019 based on torture-tainted “confessions” following grossly unfair trials, the authorities have repeatedly threatened to carry out their finger amputations, a form of torture and a crime under international law. Previous plans to amputate their fingers were halted due to international pressure.

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 59.22**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Head of the 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 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,

I am gravely concerned that **Hadi Rostami** (38), **Mehdi Sharfian** (42), and **Mehdi Shahivand** (29) are at grave risk of having their amputation sentences carried out within days using a guillotine device. On March 13, 2025, they were summoned to the Office for the Implementation of Sentences in prison and given a letter from the prosecutor’s office in Urumieh stating that their amputation sentences could be carried out as early as April 11, 2025.

Hadi Rostami, Mehdi Sharfian, and Mehdi Shahivand were arrested in 2017 and convicted of robbery in 2019 after a grossly unfair trial. They were denied access to lawyers during the investigation phase of their case and courts relied on forced “confessions” to convict them. The men have said they were forced to make the “confessions” under torture and retracted them during trial. The authorities dismissed their torture allegations and failed to order investigations into them. According to their court verdict, they are sentenced to “have four fingers on their right hands completely cut off so only the palm of their hands and thumbs are left”. Since their conviction, they have gone on multiple hunger strikes to protest inhumane prison conditions and repeated threats to carry out their amputation.

I urge you to immediately halt plans to carry out the amputation sentences of Hadi Rostami, Mehdi Sharfian and Mehdi Shahivand, quash their convictions and amputation sentences and grant them fair retrials without resorting to corporal punishments. I urge you to protect them from further torture, give them access to any medical care they need and investigate their torture allegations, bringing anyone suspected of responsibility to justice in fair trials. More broadly, I call on you to abolish all forms of corporal punishment in law and practice.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Hadi Rostami, Mehdi Sharfian, and Mehdi Shahivand were accused of breaking into the houses of four individuals and robbing safes containing gold and cash. On November 19, 2019, following a grossly unfair trial before Criminal Court 1 in West Azerbaijan province, they were sentenced to having their fingers amputated. Their trial relied on forced “confessions” which the men have said were obtained under torture while they were detained and interrogated without access to their lawyers in a detention center run by the Investigation Unit of Iran’s Police (Agahi). According to an informed source, interrogators forced Mehdi Sharfian and Mehdi Shahivand to “confess” to committing burglaries in which they had no involvement and to implicate Hadi Rostami in the same burglaries. All three men retracted their “confessions” during their trial and told judges they were made under torture, but both the Criminal Court and the Supreme Court failed in their obligations to exclude the “confessions” as evidence and order investigations into their torture allegations.

The verdict of the Supreme Court briefly mentioned in a few general words that Hadi Rostami had complained about torture, but did not provide any further analysis. Hadi Rostami has made numerous official complaints to judicial bodies which have been ignored. In March 2021, he complained to a representative of the Head of the Judiciary during his visit to the prison; the representative gave him false assurances that his case would be resolved. Hadi Rostami also raised his case directly with the current Head of the Judiciary, Gholamhossein Mohseni Eje’i, when he visited Ilam prison, but to no avail. Previous plans by the Iranian authorities to carry out the three men’s amputation sentences between 2020 and 2022 were halted due to international pressure.

In March 2025, Hadi Rostami wrote a letter from inside prison pleading for help from the international community: “I...have been imprisoned in Urumieh Central prison since 2017 on charges of ‘theft’ and sentenced to the amputation of four fingers on my right hand, despite my innocence...in a detention centre run by the Investigation Unit of Iran’s Police (agahi), I was forced to sign blank papers under severe torture. Even then, I continued to assert my innocence, but my voice was ignored...”

Iran is obliged, under international law, to prohibit and punish torture in all circumstances and without exception. Despite this, Iran’s Islamic Penal Code continues to provide for corporal judicial punishments amounting to torture, including amputation, flogging, blinding, crucifixion, and stoning. According to Abdorrahman Boroumand Center for Human Rights in Iran, Iranian courts have issued at least 384 amputation sentences since 1979. The organization has also recorded the implementation of 223 amputation sentences since 1979. The real numbers are likely to be far higher. Iranian law requires that a physician be present during the implementation of corporal punishments, in direct violation of ethical guidelines and international standards which expressly prohibit health providers’ involvement in torture.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: July 4, 2025

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Hadi Rostami, Mehdi Sharfian, and Mehdi Shahivand (all he/him)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5718/2022/en/>