



## Urgent Appeal for the Protection of Political and Prisoners of Conscience in Iran

Respected leaders of the international community, human rights organizations, and civil society institutions

We are a network of civil society activists, including lawyers, politicians with various political orientations, and Christian pastors, and wish to express our deep concern about the alarming situation of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Iran and to request immediate international support for them.

In recent days and weeks, numerous reports have been published about extremely worrying conditions in Iranian prisons. Political and prisoners of conscience are facing severe restrictions, lack of adequate access to medical care, as well as torture and psychological and physical abuse (including flogging, burning of the body, breaking of bones, rape, removal of women's wombs, placing religious and political prisoners in wards with dangerous and repeat offenders, forcing them to consume narcotics, systematic pharmaceutical torture, and other forms of physical and psychological torture). In some cases, they also face the risk of being sentenced to death and having those sentences carried out. Many of these individuals have been imprisoned solely because of their beliefs, peaceful civil activities, or their religious and political views.

Some of them are protesters who, in January 2026, took to the streets along with millions of Iranians calling for freedom and a better future. Among them are vulnerable individuals and even children as young as 15, whom the regime is reportedly classifying as prisoners of war.

Others have been imprisoned for a long time because of their religious beliefs or political activities and come from various ethnic backgrounds.

In recent years, tragic incidents in Iranian prisons, including those reported in Evin and Qezel Hesar prisons, have raised serious concerns about their safety and lives. With Nowruz, the Iranian New Year, approaching, these concerns have increased. There is fear that, if the international community does not give sufficient attention, new acts of repression or violence against prisoners may occur amid the ongoing tensions and unrest in Iran.

With respect, we call on world leaders, politicians, human rights organisations, churches, civil society institutions, independent media, and democratic governments to:

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With respect, we call on world leaders, politicians, human rights organisations, churches, civil society institutions, independent media, and democratic governments to:

1. Closely and urgently monitor the situation of political and prisoners of conscience (including religious prisoners) in Iran and assist in identifying these prisoners.
2. Increase global awareness of their critical situation through public statements, reports, and media coverage.
3. Use all possible means to help secure the immediate and unconditional release of these prisoners and, until their release, ensure their safety, health, and fundamental rights, including protection from torture and unlawful pressure.
4. Ensure access to medical facilities and services for political prisoners and victims of torture, including providing clear information about how they can access such services.
5. Provide suitable conditions for prisoners and ensure their safety in prisons until their release, including access to independent and effective legal counsel and the ability to communicate with their families.
6. Take immediate action and oversight regarding the conditions of Iran's prisons through independent international bodies.

We believe that the silence of the international community could lead to further human rights violations, whereas timely attention and action can help save human lives.

We hope to be the voice of those innocent prisoners who remain behind prison walls and must not be forgotten.

Yours faithfully

Attieh Fard  
Director  
**Christian Activists for a Free Iran**