

Head of Judiciary Ebrahim Raisi
c/o Permanent Mission of Iran to the UN
Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28
1209 Geneva
SCHWEIZ

Your Excellency,

Arsalan Khodkam, 47, from Iran's Kurdish minority, is at risk of execution in Urumieh prison in West Azerbaijan province. He was sentenced to death on 14 July 2018 for "spying" for the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI), while working as a low-ranking officer for the Revolutionary Guards.

Arsalan Khodkam has consistently denied the charge and believes that it relates to his communication with one of his wife's relatives, who was a member of the KDPI. In February 2020, his lawyer attempted to access his court documents and prepare a clemency application, but was told that he could not represent Arsalan Khodkam and that a clemency application previously submitted from inside prison had already been rejected.

Arsalan Khodkam says that he is being tortured and ill-treated in prison.

I urge you to quash Arsalan Khodkam's conviction and death sentence and grant him a fair retrial, without recourse to the death penalty, and excluding "confessions" obtained under torture and other ill-treatment. Please also ensure he has access to a lawyer of his own choosing, and order an independent and impartial investigation into his allegations of torture and other ill-treatment and bring those responsible to justice.

Yours sincerely,

Copy:

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