Head of Judiciary  
Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei  
c/o Embassy of Iran to the European Union  
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt No. 15  
1050 Brüssel  
BELGIEN

Dear Mr Mohseni Ejei,

Four young men from the Baluchi minority are at grave risk of execution. Shoeib Mir Baluchzehi Rigi, 19, Kambiz Kharout, 21, Ebrahim Narouie, 25, and Mansour Dahmardeh, 21, who has a physical disability, were tried separately in December 2022 in relation to protests in Zahedan, the capital of Sistan and Baluchestan province. Nezamoddin Hout, 20, and Mansour Hout, 27, were tried together before Criminal Court 2 in Zahedan in December 2022 in relation to protests in Chabahar, a small town in the south of the province. They were all sentenced to death in December 2022 and January 2023 on charges of "spreading corruption on earth" (efsad-e fel arz) and/or "enmity against God" (moharebeh) for arson, stone-throwing and other offences. The men’s trials were grossly unfair. The authorities denied them access to legal representation and "confessions" obtained through torture were used to convict them. In February 2023, Iran’s Supreme Court quashed the convictions and death sentences of Nezamoddin Hout and Mansour Hout on appeal on the grounds that Criminal Court 2 does not have jurisdiction over capital crimes and crimes related to national security. Their cases were sent for retrial before a Revolutionary Court, where it is feared they may be sentenced to death again. The appeals of the other four men remain pending before the Supreme Court.

I urge you to revoke the convictions and death sentences and drop all charges against Shoeib Mir Baluchzehi Rigi, Nezamoddin Hout, Kambiz Kharout, Ebrahim Narouie, Mansour Dahmardeh and Mansour Hout related to their peaceful participation in protests. If charged with a recognizable criminal offence, retrial proceedings must meet international fair trial standards without recourse to the death penalty and exclude coerced "confessions". I call on you to provide the men access to their families and lawyers of their own choosing, as well as to adequate medical care. I ask you to protect them from further torture and other ill-treatment and investigate torture allegations, bringing anyone found responsible to justice in fair trials. Finally, I urge you to grant independent observers access to capital trials connected to protests and immediately establish an official moratorium on executions with a view of abolishing the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,

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