

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

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*Place, date*

**Please release human rights defender Pakhshan Azizi unconditionally and immediately!**

Dear Mr Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei,

Humanitarian aid worker and human rights defender **Pakhshan Azizi**, 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 25 January. She had filed a request for judicial review after Branch 39 of the Supreme Court upheld her conviction and death sentence in early January 2025. Her conviction, which included "armed rebellion against the state" (baghi), was solely in relation to her peaceful human rights and humanitarian activities, including her work between 2014 and 2022 providing humanitarian support to women and children displaced following attacks by the Islamic State (IS) armed group and sheltering in camps in northeast Syria. Pakhshan Azizi is being held in the women's ward of Tehran's Evin prison.

According to informed sources, following her arrest in August 2023, Pakhshan Azizi was subjected to torture and other ill-treatment, including gender-based violence, was repeatedly told that she had no right to live and threatened with execution 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. 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 independent, effective and impartial investigation into her torture allegations, bringing anyone suspected of criminal responsibility to justice in fair trials without resort to the death penalty. Also, immediately establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.**

Yours sincerely,

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*Signature*

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*First Name, Surname*

You need to be 16 or older to take part in this action.

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