

Brussels – March 31, 2026

Dear High Representative Kaja Kallas,

cc: President Roberta Metsola,

We are writing to express our grave concern regarding the brutal execution of four political prisoners: Mohammad Taghavi and Akbar Daneshvarkar, who were hanged at dawn on March 30, 2026, and Babak Alipour and Pouya Ghobadi, who were executed at dawn on March 31, 2026, in Ghezel Hesar Prison by the Iranian regime.

Mohammad Taghavi, 59, had already endured years of imprisonment during the 1980s and 1990s for his political beliefs. A survivor of the 1988 massacre of political prisoners, he was repeatedly imprisoned because of his opposition to the regime and his support for the PMOI. After being arrested again in 2020 and serving three years in prison on charges of affiliation with the PMOI, he was re-arrested in March 2024. In total, he spent eight years in the regime's prisons. Despite surviving the mass executions of political prisoners in 1988, he was ultimately executed decades later for steadfastly continuing to oppose the regime.

Akbar Daneshvarkar, 60, a civil engineer, was arrested in January 2024.

Babak Alipour, 34, a lawyer, was arrested in January 2024. He had previously been arrested in November 2018 in Rasht for his affiliation with the PMOI/MEK and had spent four years in prison. Pouya Ghobadi, 33, an electrical engineer, was arrested in March 2024 and had also been arrested twice before.

All four political prisoners were subjected to severe torture and intense pressure in Ward 209 of Evin Prison. In December 2024, they were sentenced to death by Judge Iman Afshari of Branch 26 of Tehran's Revolutionary Court on the charge of "Baghi" (armed rebellion), based on allegations of "membership in the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran," following months of interrogation and torture. The death sentences were later upheld by the regime's Supreme Court after proceedings that lacked even the most basic standards of due process.

On the evening of Sunday, March 29, 2026, 22 political prisoners were transferred to solitary confinement—a measure widely recognized as an immediate precursor to execution. In the past 48 hours, four of them have already been executed.

International human rights organizations had already warned about the risk of their execution. In an urgent action issued on January 23, 2025, Amnesty International warned that these four were among six prisoners facing the imminent risk of execution after a "grossly unfair trial" marred by allegations of torture and forced confessions (Amnesty International, "Iran: Six Men at Risk of Execution After Grossly Unfair Trial," January 23, 2025:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/8965/2025/en/>).

Similarly, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, Mai Sato, warned on [September 5, 2025](#), about the imminent risk of executions of political prisoners in Iran and raised serious concerns about the use of the death penalty following unfair trials and reports of torture.

These executions are particularly alarming as they are carried out at a time when the regime, engulfed in war and deep internal crises, continues to execute political prisoners. This recalls the pattern seen during the 1988 massacre of political prisoners.

Since the start of the Persian New Year (March 20, 2026), at least seven political prisoners have been executed. This includes the brutal public execution of three prisoners of the January uprising in the city of Qom on the eve of Eid al-Fitr and Nowruz, including a national wrestling champion.

Friends of a Free Iran (FoFI) has repeatedly condemned the unjust use of the death penalty, particularly against dissidents and political prisoners in Iran.

The people of Iran seek peace and freedom; however, this regime survives only through torture and executions. These brutal executions are taking place at a time when the people of Iran are increasingly calling for the overthrow of this regime and the establishment of freedom and democracy.

In its resolution of January 23, 2025, the European Parliament condemned the Iranian regime's unrestrained repression of human rights and called on Iran to immediately and unconditionally release all unjustly imprisoned human rights defenders and political prisoners, including at least 56 individuals who were on death row at the time—among them Mohammad Taghavi, Akbar Daneshvarkar, Babak Alipour, and Pouya Ghobadi.

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-10-2025-0004_EN.html

We therefore call on the European Union and its Member States to strongly condemn these executions and take urgent measures to protect all political prisoners, including PMOI members currently facing execution in Iran. Statements of concern are no longer enough. Immediate and decisive international action is urgently needed to stop the regime's escalating use of the death penalty against political prisoners. The world must not stand by while another massacre of political prisoners unfolds.

Yours sincerely,

Petras Auštrevičius

Milan Zver