

# URGENT ACTION

## REYHANEH JABBARI'S EXECUTION POSTPONED

**The execution of Reyhaneh Jabbari, the Iranian woman scheduled to be put to death on 30 September in Rajai Shahr Prison, has been postponed for 10 days. Reyhaneh Jabbari was convicted of murder after a flawed investigation and unfair trial.**

Reyhaneh Jabbari's mother said in a Facebook post on 29 September that her daughter had called her to say that she was being transferred from Gharchak Prison in the county of Varamin, Tehran Province, to Raja'i Shahr Prison to be executed early the next morning. Her mother contacted the Raja'i Shahr Prison authorities, who confirmed the scheduled execution and said she would have to go to the facility on 30 September to "collect the body". Her execution was, however, postponed and she was returned to Gharchak Prison that same day at 11.30pm, possibly in response to the public outcry after her mother's post about her scheduled execution.

Reyhaneh Jabbari, aged 26, was arrested in 2007 in relation to the killing a former employee of Iran's Ministry of Intelligence, Morteza Abdolali Sarbandi. She was held in solitary confinement, without access to her lawyer and family for two months during which she said she was tortured or otherwise ill-treated. Amnesty International understands that, at the outset of the investigation, Reyhaneh Jabbari admitted to stabbing the man once in the back, but claimed she had done so after he had tried to sexually abuse her. She also maintained that a third person in the house had been involved in the killing. These claims, if proven, could exonerate her but are believed never to have been properly investigated, raising many questions about the circumstances of the killing. Reyhaneh Jabbari was sentenced to death under *qesas* (retribution-in-kind) by a criminal court in Tehran in 2009. The death sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court in March 2014. Her sentence was then sent to the Office of Implementation of Sentences in Tehran, allowing the family of the dead man to request her execution at any time.

### Please write immediately in Persian, English, Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the Iranian authorities not to execute Reyhaneh Jabbari and to order a retrial in proceedings which comply with fair trial standards, without recourse to the death penalty;
- Urging them to investigate the allegations that Reyhaneh Jabbari was ill-treated in custody;
- Reminding them that under Article 6(4) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is state party, "anyone sentenced to death shall have the right to seek pardon or commutation of the sentence";
- Urging them to allow Reyhaneh Jabbari access to a lawyer of her own choosing.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 13 NOVEMBER 2014 TO:

#### Leader of the Islamic Republic

Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei  
The Office of the Supreme Leader  
Islamic Republic Street- End of Shahid  
Keshvar Doust Street  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
Email: [info\\_leader@leader.ir](mailto:info_leader@leader.ir)  
Twitter: @khamenei\_ir

Salutation: Your Excellency

#### Head of the Judiciary

Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani  
c/o Public Relations Office  
Number 4, 2 Azizi Street intersection  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
Salutation: Your Excellency And

#### And copies to:

President of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
Hassan Rouhani  
The Presidency  
Pasteur Street, Pasteur Square  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
Twitter: @HassanRouhani (English) and  
@Rouhani\_ir (Persian)

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 85/14. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/018/2014/en>

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Following a widespread public outcry on 29 September, several state-sanctioned news sites including the Islamic Republic News Agency published articles in the late evening quoting "an informed source" as denying the reports that Reyhaneh Jabbari was scheduled for execution the next day.

Amnesty International understands that Reyhaneh Jabbari was promised by the authorities on 14 September that her execution would not be carried out if she replaced her lawyer, Mohammad Ali Jedari Foroughi, and retained, in his place, a lawyer unfamiliar with the case who was introduced to her by the authorities. It is feared that this may have been done in order to foil the lawyer's efforts to seek a judicial review from the Supreme Court, ensure that Reyhaneh Jabbari's sentence was quashed because of the defects identified in the investigation process, and that she was granted a retrial whose proceedings comply with fair trial standards.

Before being removed from her case, Mohammad Ali Jedari Foroughi's repeated requests to meet with his client and access her court file had been denied. Amnesty International is concerned that Morteza Abdolali Sarbandi's association with the Ministry of Intelligence may have influenced the authorities' decision to avoid conducting a thorough and impartial pre-trial investigation.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, Ahmed Shaheed, urged the Iranian authorities on 14 April to halt immediately the execution of Reyhaneh Jabbari and refer her case back to court for a retrial, ensuring the defendant had due process rights guaranteed under both Iranian law and international law.

Under international law, including Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is state party, people who risk facing the irreversible punishment of death are entitled to the strictest observance of all fair trial guarantees. They must be presumed innocent until their guilt has been proven based upon clear and convincing evidence leaving no room for an alternative explanation of the facts, in strict application of the highest standards for gathering and assessing evidence. Amnesty International, opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception, regardless of the nature or circumstances of the crime, the guilt, innocence or other characteristics of the offender or the method used by the state to carry out the execution. The death penalty violates the right to life as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

Name: Reyhaneh Jabbari

Gender m/f: f

Further information on UA: 85/14 Index: MDE 13/053/2014 Issue Date: 1 October 2014 2014