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**Alternative report of the Paris Bar
Association and the Association of
lawyers at risk in Iran for the 48th session
of the Universal Periodic Review on the
Islamic Republic of Iran**

July 2024

ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZING THE REPORT

Paris Bar Association (Barreau de Paris)

The Paris Bar is the professional association of over 32,000 lawyers in Paris. Founded in 1340, it is one of the oldest bar associations in Europe. One of the main missions of the Paris Bar is to defend the interests of lawyers and promote the rule of law in France and worldwide. It also intervenes around the world whenever there is a need to support the judiciary and human rights.

Association of lawyers at risk in Iran

The Association of Lawyers at Risk in Iran is comprised of a group of Iranian human rights lawyers who have been forced into exile. The organization aims to inform the international community and create a support mechanism through international organizations and human rights institutions for lawyers at risk in Iran. These lawyers have been targeted due to their professional duties, particularly in defending the rights of individuals detained during the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement. Many have faced arrest, numerous prison sentences, and the revocation of their licenses. The association seeks to highlight the ongoing persecution of legal professionals in Iran who bravely uphold human rights and the rule of law, often at great personal risk.

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I. Introduction

For over 20 years, the Paris Bar Association has supported lawyers, human rights, and the independence of Bar Association defenders in Iran. As a founding member of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, the Paris Bar has also mobilized against the application of the death penalty in Iran. In 2019, the Paris Bar submitted an alternative report on the situation of lawyers in Iran to the 34th session of the Universal Periodic Review, highlighting various violations of due process against individuals prosecuted on political or religious grounds or for crimes against national security. The Working Group on the UPR issued a report with specific recommendations to the Islamic Republic of Iran to address human rights issues.

Recommendations¹ emphasized ensuring freedom of expression and protecting lawyers from intimidation and arbitrary arrest (New Zealand, Greece). There were re calls to guarantee the right to a fair trial, including access to a chosen lawyer and reforms to the judiciary (Switzerland, United States, United Kingdom, Germany). Further recommendations included strengthening the judicial system (Bhutan), aligning laws with international obligations (Lithuania), and creating an enabling environment for peaceful assembly and expression (Belgium).

As explained in this report, the Islamic Republic of Iran has blatantly ignored these recommendations and over the past five years has taken steps to further roll back the independence of the judiciary, the judiciary and human rights. In 2024, the International Day of the Endangered Lawyer, observed on January 24th globally, aimed to shed light on the situation in Iran. This report aims to provide updated information and to urge members of the Human Rights Council to use their influence to address the critical human rights situation in this country.

The information in this report is sourced from multiple Iranian lawyers and human rights defenders who either remain in Iran or have fled due to the risks they face. These individuals have shared their firsthand knowledge of the challenges encountered by Iranian lawyers and citizens. The first section of the document provides a general context on the limitations of civic space and basic liberties in Iran, followed by a section on the independence of the judiciary and the Iranian Bar. Subsequent sections include information on cases of human rights violations suffered by lawyers.

II. Human rights context

In Iran, the government has increasingly curtailed civil liberties through amendments to the Islamic Penal Code, further criminalizing the exercise of basic freedoms. State policies have led to internet shutdowns intended to impede mobilization efforts and obscure the extent of human rights abuses. Since the death of Mahsa Amini in custody in September 2022, Iranian authorities have intensified efforts to suppress dissent, leading to violent repression of protests. These crackdowns have resulted in numerous deaths, severe injuries, arbitrary arrests, and detentions, along with severe sentences such as imprisonment and flogging routinely imposed on individuals exercising their rights.

The targeted groups include protesters, journalists, political dissidents, artists, writers, human rights defenders, lawyers, women's rights advocates, labor activists, minority rights activists, environmentalists, anti-death penalty campaigners, and individuals seeking justice. Reports indicate the deliberate targeting of women with metal projectiles, resulting in irreversible damage to faces, breasts, and genitals. Fear of arrest deters many injured demonstrators from seeking medical treatment.

¹ Recommendations 26.167, 26.170, 26.171, 26.173, 26.174, 26.178, 26.179, 26.325 and 26.327.

The right to a fair trial in Iran is systematically and massively violated. Patterns of detention contrary to international standards have been reported, including prolonged detention without judicial review, denial of access to legal counsel, and solitary confinement. Convictions frequently rely on forced confessions obtained through torture and ill-treatment, as exemplified by the execution of Navid Afkari in September 2020. In 2022, the Tehran Prosecutor announced the issuance of a thousand indictments related to protests in Tehran province alone, indicating the organization of mass trials in violation of fair trial principles.

The death penalty in Iran is frequently imposed following unfair trials, with convictions often based on confessions extracted under torture. Authorities have executed individuals for actions protected under international human rights law, such as consensual same-sex relations and speech deemed insulting to Islam, as well as for drug offenses and other acts that do not meet the threshold of the most serious crimes. At least three juvenile offenders have been executed, some secretly, without notifying their families or lawyers.

Over the past 45 years, Iranian authorities have executed thousands of people, including political and ideological opponents. The death penalty has been used as a tool to suppress dissent and instill fear among the population. Since the nationwide uprising of "Woman, Life, Freedom," a significant increase in government executions has been witnessed. The use of the death penalty has been directed towards those who support women's rights, particularly those opposing the imposition of mandatory hijab and the repression of unveiled women in the streets. In 2023, Iran increased the use of the death penalty by 48% compared to 2022, executing at least 853 individuals (Amnesty International, 2024). The organizations authoring this report continue to advocate for a moratorium on the death penalty in Iran due to these severe human rights violations.

III. Independence of justice and the Lawyer's Bar Association

Iran's political structure lacks truly democratic institutions and a robust system of checks and balances, leading to a judiciary that does not operate independently from the executive and legislative branches. These branches are significantly influenced by the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who wields overarching control over all the branches of power. Various political and security entities, including the Revolutionary Guards and intelligence agencies, exert significant influence over judicial proceedings. These entities often intervene in cases related to national security, political dissent, and activism.

The Supreme Leader appoints the head of the judiciary, often a cleric closely aligned with the regime. This appointment process ensures that the judiciary aligns with the Supreme Leader's political and ideological objectives and not necessarily reflects merit or independence. Furthermore, the head of the judiciary has the authority to appoint and dismiss judges, ensuring loyalty to the regime and discouraging dissent within the judiciary. Security and intelligence agencies intervene in the appointment process.

In practice, the judiciary functions more as an extension of the Supreme Leader's authority than as an independent branch of government. This alignment has resulted in the judiciary being widely used to suppress opposition, which has been evident in the harsh sentences meted out to political activists, journalists, and minority rights advocates. The Ministry of Intelligence often interferes in the affairs of the judiciary. A particularly troubling of Iran's judiciary is that judges in Iran can convict individuals based on "knowledge of the judge," an opinion-based determination of guilt that can lack substantial evidence. This undermines the judiciary's role as a protector against potential government abuses, eroding public trust and weakening the principle of legality and human rights protection.

In addition to controlling the judiciary, the Iranian government has also taken control of the Bar Associations, contradicting articles 24 and 25 of the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers. Despite a wide mobilization led by diverse sectors, including the Paris Bar, which opposed a draft law designed to undermine the independence of the Iranian Bar, in September 2023, Iran's parliament approved a law that suppresses this independence. The new regulations place the Iranian Bar Association under the control of the judiciary and the executive branch, giving government-appointed judicial officials the authority to issue and revoke lawyers' licenses. This move is the latest step in a decades-long campaign against independent lawyers in Iran, primarily aimed at eliminating any possibility of due process for those considered opponents or critics of the state.

Moreover, in 2020, the judiciary issued a directive to investigate complaints against lawyers, introducing significant changes to the disciplinary process. Prior to this, Bar Associations managed disciplinary matters through an established tribunal responsible for investigating alleged offenses. The new directive allowed for the sanctioning of lawyers deemed insufficiently committed to Islam or the Supreme Leader. It also introduced specific penalties for female lawyers who did not wear the hijab in judicial buildings or on social media. These investigations and sanctions were to be overseen by the newly created General Office for the Supervision of Lawyers, Experts, Family Counselors, and Official Translators.

IV. Violations to the right to a defence

Some entities of the judiciary system in Iran are known for abusing their powers and for repeatedly violate the basic guarantees of the due process. Some of these violations come from the application of the current legal framework, which contradicts itself international standards, as explained by the Advocates for Human rights and others: "For diya offenses such as murder, a woman's testimony is worth half the testimony of a man, making one male witness worth the testimony of two female witnesses". In other cases, these violations come from the abusive use of the judicial power to persecute members of the civil society and protestors, including lawyers directly, like denying detainees the right to access a lawyer, to freely appoint a lawyer, to have a process that follow a reasonable time. This panorama is aggravated by the fact that there are no independent mechanisms for ensuring independence and accountability within the judiciary, specially within the Revolutionary Courts. This section will explain the most recurrent violations of the right to a defence.

1. Free appointment of an independent lawyer

In Iran, the legal profession is regulated by two distinct entities that issue licenses to practicing lawyers: the traditional Bar Associations and the Judiciary Center. The Bar Associations are independent bodies that grant licenses to lawyers who meet stringent qualifications, maintaining the autonomy and integrity of the legal profession. Conversely, the Judiciary Center, part of the government's judicial system, issues licenses under Article 187 of the Third Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan, creating "Article 187" lawyers to address the shortage of legal. Among these two categories of lawyers, there are the lawyers approved by the judiciary, which are referred to as the lawyers in the note of Article 48 of the Criminal Procedure Law. In several cases of security and political cases, only these lawyers have the right to enter the interrogation and investigation phase of the prosecutor's office, and independent lawyers do not have the right to enter the investigation phase.

This diversity of lawyers is particularly problematic for detainees, whose right to freely choose who defend them is seriously restricted. The Article 48 of Iran's Rules of Criminal Procedure limits defendants in cases of crimes against internal or external security their right to freely appoint a

lawyer: they can only use lawyers from a list approved by the head of the judiciary. This article directly violates the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Iran is a signatory, the right of an accused person in criminal proceedings to be represented by a lawyer of his choice. The case of Ali Sharifzadeh Ardakani, a lawyer who was not allowed to represent Seyed Mohammad Hosseini, a street protester who was hanged on January 7, 2023, is just one of the multiple reported cases. Indeed, this lawyer was charged for denouncing that Hosseini was tortured while in custody.

This situation is aggravated because, as it was explained formerly, the Head of the Judiciary is neither impartial nor independent: the judiciary is under the control of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran and cannot offer guarantees of appointing independent or impartial lawyers to defend demonstrators or other people accused of crimes against security. According to one member of the Iranian Bar Association (Center for Human Rights in Iran, 2023b), prisoners charged in connection with the 2022 protests were being assigned lawyers with ties to the authorities. He explains that these pre-approved lawyers generally come from religious families loyal to the Islamic Republic and are closely managed by the security agencies.

2. Barriers to access to a lawyer

The Article 48 of Iran's Rules of Criminal Procedure allows state security agents to block a detainee's access to a lawyer for up to a week in crimes against the country's internal and external security, which typically involve activists and dissidents who have been accused of criticizing state policies. This rule openly contradicts international human rights standards (ICCPR, Article 14.3) and even Iranian Rules of Criminal Procedure, which allows all detainees to request and meet with a lawyer as soon as they are detained.

An alarmingly number of people arrested during demonstrations against the government are normally accused of committing crimes against internal or external security and therefore they cannot access a lawyer in some of the most critical moments. This is particularly critical because in the first hours and days detainees can be subjected to undue pressure or torture to confess or to falsely denounce other people. Those who managed to contact a lawyer or provide information on conditions of detention were subjected to reprisals, including torture. Even when they managed to do so, they faced enormous procedural barriers: lawyers could not meet them during various days them nor access their accusation's file, which clearly hampers the ability to properly defend their clients.

According to Iran Human Rights (2023), in none of the cases they had access to, detained protestors or people sentenced to death in Iran had access to a lawyer in the first hours or days after their arrest. Only international pressure might have led to the access to lawyers to some of the defendants. For instance, Mohsen Shekari and Majidreza Rahnavard, were executed by the Iranian authorities after releasing their videotaped confessions in which they had visible injuries, including a bruised and bloodied face and a broken arm. Reportedly, none of them had access to lawyers during their process. Likewise, Farhad Ghahremani was arrested during an anti-death penalty protest and subsequently was tried without a lawyer via video conference and was sentenced to six months of imprisonment and twenty-five lashes.

3. Speedy trials

The Article 14(3) (b) of the ICCPR states clearly that one of the basic guarantees of any criminal procedure is to have enough time and facilities to prepare the defence of the accused person. Nonetheless, the speedy trials where neither the accused nor their lawyers have the proper time to prepare their defence, constitute a recurring violation committed within the Iranian legal system. According to different sources, in many sensitive cases lawyers only a few hours, or even minutes, to examine files and other cases the access to files is rejected. One striking case is the one of

Mohammad Mehdi Karami and Seyed Mohammad Hosseini, whose judicial process took one week from his arrest to their sentence and two months to his hanging. Reportedly, their relatives were unable to communicate with the appointed lawyer during the process.

IV. Attacks on lawyers

So far, this report has presented multiple violations to the right to defense, which constitute serious obstacles for lawyers to defend their clients adequately. However, the Iranian government has also focused on persecuting lawyers for doing their job, whether through subpoenas, arbitrary arrests, harassment, torture or even death.

1. Arbitrary deprivation of life

There are reports of at least three cases of women lawyers in Iran who were victims of arbitrary deprivation of life. In all three cases, these women lawyers were defenders of women's rights and participants in the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement. They were arbitrarily deprived of their liberty before their deaths. In two of these cases, there are indications that their deaths resulted from excessive force used by state forces.

Maryam Arvin, an Iranian lawyer and advocate for women's rights, died on 7 February 2023, two months after her release from prison. After defending a 15-year-old orphan and criticizing the court, she and her mother were arrested on 26 November 2022. They were accused of inciting and participating in protests. The government's version stated that Arvin had committed suicide. In contrast, her family claimed that Arvin's death resulted from drug injections and injuries sustained from mistreatment in prison and court (NCRI Women Committee, 2023a).

Narges Khorramifard was an Iranian lawyer who defended individuals who were arrested during the demonstrations for the murder of Mahsa Amini. She was abducted in November 2022 in Mashad and her body was later abandoned outside her family's house with signs of torture and poison. Her family took her to Nazeran Hospital in Mashhad, where a person posing as a doctor assured them that she was stable. Later that night, hospital staff reported seeing two unknown men dressed as nurses enter her room and administer an injection. This action resulted in her death, and her family was informed of her passing two hours later (NCRI Women Committee, 2023b).

Mohabbat Mozaffari was arrested and imprisoned in Evin Prison after being actively involved in the "Woman, Life, Freedom" protests in Tehran. After being arrested and later released from Evin Prison, she died from a brain hemorrhage reportedly due to severe beatings and torture while in custody in 2023.

2. Convictions

Many Iranian lawyers defended the protestors who were arrested in the context of the "Woman, Life, Freedom" protests in 2022. Some of them faced heavy sentences for defending their clients or for freely expressing their opinions. Some of the convicted were obliged to flee the country and to seek international protection while others are currently imprisoned. According to available information, the following lawyers have also been convicted: Khosro Alikordi, Forough Sheikholeslami Vatani Taher Naghavi, Mohammad Najafi, Amir Salar Davoudi, Arash Keykhosrav, Mahmoud Taravatrouy, Nazanin Salari, Masoud Ahmadian, Mostafa Torkhamedani, Ghassem Boedi, Saleh Nikbakht, Marzieh Mohebbi, Mehdi Shakibafar, Amirhossein Kouhkan, Amir Mahdipour and Erfan Karamvoisi.

2.1. Imprisonment

In July 2024, **Mohsen Borhani** was arrested and sentenced by the Special Clerical Court to seven months and sixteen days in prison for propaganda against the regime, and thirteen months and sixteen days for spreading falsehoods. In October 2023, after 19 years of teaching, he was suspended from the faculty of Tehran University and banned from teaching. In the same month, lawyer **Mehdi Shakibafar** was sentenced to 22 months in prison. He was accused of spreading lies and insulting the country's leadership. In both cases, these convictions are attributable to their work as lawyers and their opinions on the judiciary's actions during the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement.

Lawyer **Mohammad Najafi** remains in prison after being sentenced in 2016 to 10 years in prison and 74 lashes for his work as a lawyer, which includes publicly exposing the death of a protester in custody and his criticism of the judiciary. Since September 21, 2022, he has been placed on solitary confinement and has been banned from all human contact for condemning the conditions of other prisoners. He has been denied necessary medical treatment and subjected to psychological torture. His family has also been arrested or interrogated.

On December 2021 lawyer **Amirsalar Davoudi**, who has represented human rights defenders and political prisoners, was sentenced to fourteen years in prison for allegedly "insulting the supreme leader", "disconcerting public opinion" and "forming a group to act against national security". He had been sentenced earlier to 30 years' imprisonment and 111 lashes for similar charges. He remains imprisoned despite allegations of violations to the due process during the criminal procedure against him.

Lawyer and human rights defender **Arash Keykhosrav**, known for representing human rights and environmental defenders, was arrested in September 2023 and transferred to Evin prison to serve a one-year-prison sentence. He was accused of "propaganda activities against the state", for delivering a statement entitled "the majority of Iranians no longer want the Islamic Republic". From 2019, he had been repeatedly arrested and sentenced to prison for political motivated charges.

Khosro Alikordi is an Iranian lawyer known for representing the families of political prisoners, such as Mohammad Hossein and Fatemeh Sepehri, and the families of victims from the 2022 protests, including Abolfazl Adinezhadeh. In 2023, he was arrested and subsequently released. However, in 2024, he was arrested again and taken to Vakilabad prison to serve a one-year sentence for allegedly engaging in "propaganda against the Islamic Republic system" and supporting groups opposing the regime. Additionally, he was fined 21 million tomans for defamation.

Farzaneh Zilabi is a human rights lawyer sentenced in 2021 to one year in prison on charges of propaganda activities against the state. In May 2023, she received an additional sentence of one year for the same charges and "insulting the supreme leader". It is believed that these convictions are reprisals for her work representing workers and labor rights activists in the cases related to the Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Company.

Gelaleh Watandoost, a Kurdish lawyer and women's rights activist was sentenced to six years, seven months, and 20 days in prison by the Revolutionary Court in Kurdistan. Tried in September of the previous year, she faced charges of "propaganda activities against the Islamic Republic," "formation or membership of groups aiming to disrupt national security," and "affiliation with anti-Islamic Republic groups." She was arrested on October 3, 2023, in Sanandaj and released on bail later that month. Currently, she remains convicted and faces significant prison time for her advocacy efforts.

In February 2024, **Fereshteh Tabanian**, the lawyer of Abbas Deris was sentenced to three months for allegedly "spreading lies". She represented a protester who claimed that he was tortured to oblige him to falsely confess to a crime.

Human rights lawyer **Marzieh Nikara** was sentenced to one year of imprisonment by Branch 29 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran on May 14, 2023. She was convicted on charges of "anti-regime propaganda activities" and "dissemination of falsehoods" due to her involvement in drafting a letter

to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. The letter, signed by human rights defenders and legal experts condemned the suppression of citizens during the 2022-2023 nationwide protests and called for an end to public executions and death sentences of young protesters.

Saleh Nikbakht is the lawyer who represented the family of Jina-Mahsa Amini, a young woman who died after being detained by Iran's morality police in September 2022. The investigation against Nikbakht began in August 2023, focusing on his media interviews, in which he discussed the legal aspects of Mahsa Amini's case and contested the official forensic report. On October 17, 2023, Nikbakht was convicted by the Tehran Revolutionary Court and sentenced to one year in prison on charges of "propaganda against the regime." On December 22, 2023, upon returning to Iran after receiving the Sakharov Prize on behalf of Mahsa Amini's family, he was detained at Tehran airport. Following a lengthy interrogation, he was released but informed that he would soon be summoned to Evin prison to serve his sentence, where he was imprisoned for a year. He is currently out of prison.

Soheila Hejab, an Iranian Kurdish attorney and human rights activist based in Shiraz, was first arrested in December 2018 and charged with "supporting an anti-state organization". She was later sentenced to two years' imprisonment, serving five months before being rearrested by IRGC intelligence agents. In March 2020, after a brief release on bail, Hejab was sentenced to 18 years in prison for "gathering and planning against national security" and "joining opposition groups to defend women's rights," a sentence upheld in May 2020. In prison she faced physical abuse, threats, and harsh prison conditions, including a lack of water and medical facilities and denial of medical attention. In December 2022, she appeared in court in a wheelchair due to injuries from alleged assaults. Finally, after enduring severe health issues, she was released from prison in March 2023.

In July 2022, Iranian **lawyer Mohammad Ali Dadkhah**, known for defending political prisoners in Iran, was arrested, and sent to Prison to serve an eight-year sentence he received in 2011 for being part of the Defenders of Human Rights Center and allegedly spreading propaganda to overthrow the regime. He had been released on parole in 2013.

Golaleh Vatandoust, a Kurdish lawyer and women's rights defender, was arrested in October 2022 during the "Women, Life, Freedom" movement and was released on bail 26 days later. However, in January 2024 she was sentenced to six years, seven months, and twenty days of imprisonment. She was charged with "spreading anti-state propaganda", "formation of groups who undermine national security", and "membership to opposition groups" for aiming to establish an association to protect women's rights. Her case is currently under review at the Court of Appeal.

2.3. House arrest

Nasrin Sotoudeh is a prominent Iranian human rights lawyer known for defending women who protest against the compulsory hijab. In March 2019, she was convicted on multiple charges, including "espionage" and "membership in an illegal group," and sentenced to 38 years in prison and 148 lashes. Initially imprisoned in Evin prison, she was later placed under house arrest in July 2021 due to health issues but continued to be barred from practicing law. On October 29, 2023, Sotoudeh was arrested and severely beaten while attending the funeral of Armita Garavand. She was detained in Qarchak prison, known for its poor conditions, and went on a hunger strike to protest her treatment. Her health deteriorated significantly, leading to temporary releases for medical treatment. As of July 2024, Nasrin Sotoudeh is under constant threat of being returned to prison despite her fragile health. Iranian authorities have criminally persecuted his husband, Reza Khandan, for posting in social media about his wife's imprisonment. Her daughter was arrested in 2021.

2.4. Exile

Some lawyers were forced to exile to save their lives and those of their families. For instance, although she was not present in Iran during the 2022 protests, Iranian lawyer and human rights activist Forough Sheikholeslami Vatani was sentenced to 10 years in prison by the Tehran court in 2023. Her accusations stem from her activities in the “Women, Life Freedom movement”, which include legal support to victims. The charges include accusations of actions contrary to religious authority, including attempting to disrupt order, inciting moral turpitude and prostitution. She was forced into exile.

4. Arrests and pretrial detention

Since September 2022 at least 44 defense lawyers were arrested to prevent them from seeking justice for arbitrarily arrested activists and demonstrators (Center for Human Rights in Iran, 2023). Those arrested were obliged to use lawyers on a list approved by the head of the judiciary. As it was explained above, many of the arrested lawyers were criminally prosecuted, convicted, sanctioned or were obliged to flee the country. Some of the arrested lawyers include Mostafa Tork Hamedani, Naser Sargaran, Firouzeh Khordech, Behnam Cheghini, Ghasem Boedi, Amir Mahdipour, Saeid Jalilian, Milad Panahipour, Hossein Jalilian, Babak Paknia, Mohsen Borhani and Mustafa Tork.

As of now, several lawyers are in pretrial detention. One of them is Taher Naghavi, a lawyer from Karaj, Iran, who is currently facing charges of "propaganda activities against the state" and "gathering and collusion against national security." He is the lawyer for an Azerbaijani national who has been detained in Iran on espionage charges. Taher Naghavi was arrested on February 6, 2024, and has been in pretrial detention since then in Evin Prison.

5. Summons

In 2022, 54 Iranian lawyers from the Kurdish town of Bukan publicly declared their support for Mahsa Amini's family following her death in police custody. These lawyers announced their readiness to provide legal representation to Amini's family and condemned the government's conduct in the case. This public stance resulted in all 54 lawyers being summoned by judicial authorities, who cited that the lawyers had published "photos, images, and other materials that violated public decency." This summoning was widely perceived as a reprisal for their support of Amini's family and their criticism of the government's actions.

After the uprising, about 200 lawyers were summoned to Evin Security Courthouse. Their cases have been closed with a commitment taken. Lawyers were forced to sign a commitment not to engage in political activities on social media and not to assume security cases. In the Annex I of this document there is a list of their names.

6. Suspension

The disciplinary sanction of suspending a lawyer's license to practice law has been employed against certain attorneys due to their involvement in sensitive cases, particularly those representing political prisoners or individuals charged with national security offenses. These disciplinary actions are often coupled with criminal sanctions, as illustrated by some of the cases mentioned above. For instance, Khosro Alikordi, Taher Naghavi, Ghassem Boedi, Farzaneh Zilabi et Amir Mahdipour.

7. Disbarment

In Iran, the disbarment of lawyers has been systematically used as a tool to repress those defending human rights and representing politically sensitive cases. This practice undermines the independence of lawyers, a fundamental component of the rule of law and fair trial rights. These disbarments violate the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers and infringes upon their fundamental rights, including the right to freedom of expression and association.

It is particularly worrying that these disbarments have been issued in a context of lack of independence of the bar associations and the judiciary. Some of the most notorious cases are the case of **Nasrin Sotoudeh**, who was both disbarred and sentenced to 38 years in prison and 148 lashes for defending women's rights activists and opposing compulsory hijab laws. Likewise, human rights lawyer **Mohammad Najafi** was disbarred after multiple imprisonments. He is known for his defense of protesters and outspoken criticism of the Iranian government.

V. Conclusions

The right to legal representation is a cornerstone of a fair judicial system, and its erosion in Iran threatens the very fabric of justice. However, Iranian government has carried out a generalized persecution of lawyers, which has negatively influenced the right to defense. The targeting of lawyers, particularly those involved in human rights and political cases, reveals a troubling pattern of repression aimed at stifling dissent and suppressing fundamental freedoms. This report has detailed numerous instances where lawyers have faced harassment, arbitrary arrests, torture, and even death for performing their professional duties. Such actions by the Iranian authorities not only hinder the ability of lawyers to defend their clients effectively but also pose significant threats to the rights and liberties of the whole Iranian population.

Besides physical violence, many lawyers have been convicted on dubious charges, forcing some into exile while others remain imprisoned under harsh conditions. When imprisoned, they normally face long and disproportionate sentences, are subjected to harsh conditions like solitary confinement, and denial of medical treatment. The use of suspensions and disbarments further cripples the legal profession in Iran since they are politically motivated and serve to isolate and weaken the community of defense lawyers. This deliberate erosion of the state of law and due process not only silences those who challenge the regime, but also weakens the legal profession and undermines the safety of all Iranian citizens.

VI. Recommendations

The authoring organizations kindly request the Human Rights Council to:

1. Discuss and adopt targeted sanctions against officials responsible for human rights violations committed against lawyers and the civil population in Iran.
2. Maintain and reinforce the Mandate of the Special Rapporteur: Continue the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran to ensure ongoing international oversight and reporting on human rights violations.
3. Engaging a dialogue to abolish the death penalty in Iran or at least impose a moratorium.

4. Align judicial measures with international standards: Work with Iranian authorities to implement judicial reforms that align Iran's norms and practices with international principles on the role of lawyers and the ICCPR.
5. Provide comprehensive training for judges: Conduct extensive training programs for judges to ensure their decisions adhere to the rights recognized in the ICCPR, thereby preventing judgments that contravene these rights.
6. Organize an independent mission: Initiate an independent mission to assess and verify the health status of lawyers in detention, ensuring they receive appropriate medical care, and their health conditions are transparently reported.
7. Engage in dialogue on due process violations: Facilitate a dialogue with the Iranian government to review potential due process violations in cases involving the criminal convictions, suspensions, and disbarments of the lawyers mentioned in this report.
8. Provide technical assistance for legislative and political reforms: Offer technical assistance to Iranian authorities to help them adopt legislative, political, and judicial measures that uphold international human rights standards and protect the independence of the legal profession.

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Annex I - Summoned lawyers

1. Mahsa Gholamali Zadeh
2. Milad Panahipour
3. Saeed Jalilian
4. Babak Paknia
5. Gelayeh Vatandoust
6. Saeed Ataei Kachoui
7. Mina Bozorgi
8. Amir Dehghani
9. Zahra Khourdochi
10. Roza EtamadAnsari
11. Parya Ghasemi Seyyed
12. Mohamareza Faghihi
13. Saeed Sheykh
14. Rouhollah Mohammadrezaei
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17. Amir Mehdi pour
18. Hossein Rezaei
19. Arash Keykhosravi
20. Negin Kiani
21. Amin Adel Ahmadian
22. Maryam Sadrniya
23. Ghahreman Karimi
24. Ebrahim Ghaedi
25. Nazanin Salari
26. Mohammad hadi Jafarpour
27. Bahareh Sahrbian
28. Mahmoud Taravatrooy
29. Astoreh Ansari
30. Ghodsiyeh Ghodbin
31. Mehdi Safavi
32. Alireza Zareh
33. Mostafa Nili
34. Hassan Younesi
35. Farzaneh Akbarian Nasab
36. Zahra Nazari
37. Mohabbat Mozafari
38. Hadi Razavi
39. Saeedeh Mirghorbani
40. Sara Hamzeh Zadeh
41. Ebrahim Sabeti
42. Elham Zeraat pisheh
43. Ali Sharifzadeh Ardakani
44. Behzad Hakimizadeh
45. Giti Shafi
46. Amir Afsharnajafi
47. Farzaneh Zeylabi
48. Mohammad Arman
49. Fereshteh Tabanian
50. Mohammadali Kamfirouzi
51. Seyedmohamad Seyfzadeh
52. Marzieh Nikarad
53. Amirhossein Kouhkan
54. Naser Sargaran
55. Mohammad Ali Dadkhah
56. AmirsalarDavoudi
57. Taher Naghavi
58. Mostafa Torkhamedani
59. Mohammad Najafi
60. Marzieh Mohebbi
61. Nazila Hekmat shoar
62. Mohsen Borhani
63. Forough sheikholeslami vatani
64. Mohamadhadi Erfanian
65. Reza Hamzei
66. Hossein Jalilian
67. Mohammad Taheranpour
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83. Asrin Khaledi
84. Shirin Sharafi
85. Leyla Khosravi
86. Hossein Saadat Moghadam
87. Shalir Fotouhisar
88. Mansour Salehi
89. Masoud Kiani
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91. Keyvan Mamehpour
92. Hamed Ghaderpour
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94. Motalleb Alavian
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96. Farzin Kocheri boukani
97. Shbanam Khazari
98. Hassan Dimeh
99. Monireh Khazari
100. Salem Valipour
101. Behzad Maroufi
102. Shomal Maskani
103. Hamin Bahrami
104. Ebrahim Salamatinia
105. Matin Rahmannedzhad
106. Narmin Hosseinikhah

107.Rabeeheh Zabihi
108.Shahla Hasanzadeh
109.Mansour Ghaneh
110.Omid Rasoulzadeh
111.Yousef Rasoulzadeh
112.Najmoddin Tohidi
113.Naser Irani
114.Nishtaman Fatohllahi
115.Hayat Katani
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117.Serajoddin Taheri
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130.Ali Mojtahedzadeh
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137.Tootia Partov Amoli
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142.Shayan Zadegan
143.Alireza Seyed Aghaei
144.Rezvan Abassifarajzadeh
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146.Elham Ayyoubi
147.Elnaz Moghimi
148.Mostafa Shabaani
149.Mehran Heydari
150.Majid Sabouri
151.Reza Heydari
152.Mahboubeh Joudaki
153.Leyla Ghassemi
154.Bahareh Fesharaki
155.Zahra Mirbeyg
156.Masoud Ahmadian
157.Babak barghi
158.Seyyedhossein Paylakhi
159.Shohreh Haddadiani
160.Iman Soleimani
161.Erfan Karamveisi
162.Niloofarsadat Hashemian

