

**Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders  
A/HRC/34/52/Add.1 para 398**

**Full recommendation:**

*The Special Rapporteur urges the Iranian Government to immediately drop all charges against Ms. Rahemipour and to halt any acts of retaliation against relatives, witnesses and human rights defenders who report cases of enforced disappearances, pursuant to article 13 (3) and (5) of the Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance adopted by General Assemblée resolution 47/133.*

**Assessment**

**A. The Special Rapporteur urges the Iranian Government to immediately drop all charges against Ms. Rahemipour.**

The Iranian Government failed to immediately drop all charges against Ms. Raheleh Rahemipour. Ms. Rahemipour was sentenced to one year imprisonment in January 2017 after Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran convicted her of “spreading propaganda against the system” through her peaceful efforts to learn the truth about the whereabouts of her brother Hossein Rahemipour, who was summarily executed in 1984, and his baby daughter Golrou Rahemipour, who forcibly disappeared 15 days after she was born in Evin prison.

In May 2018, Ms. Rahemipour faced a second trial, again on the charge of “spreading propaganda against the system”, following her complaint filed with the UN on the enforced disappearance of her brother and infant daughter. The Ministry of Intelligence reportedly told Ms. Rahemipour that the prosecution would cease if she withdrew her complaint.<sup>1</sup> Ms. Rahemipour was ultimately sentenced to pay a fine.<sup>2</sup>

Ms. Rahemipour was again arrested in November 2019 before being released on bail the following month.<sup>3</sup>

**B. The Special Rapporteur urges the Iranian Government to halt any acts of retaliation against relatives, witnesses and human rights defenders who report cases of enforced disappearances, pursuant to article 13 (3) and (5) of the Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance adopted by General Assemblée resolution 47/133.**

<sup>1</sup> Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/05/iran-raheleh-rahemipour-goes-on-trial/>

<sup>2</sup> Iran Human Rights, <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/3694/>

<sup>3</sup> United for Iran, <https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/prisoner/3705/>

OHCHR<sup>4 5</sup> and NGOs<sup>6</sup> recently reported acts of retaliation against those who seek justice and truth for enforced disappearances that happened in the 1980s in Iran, notably relating to the summary executions which occurred in 1988.<sup>7</sup> For instance, the children of Ms. Rahemipour, who campaign to learn the truth about the whereabouts of her brother and niece, have reportedly been arrested following her last arrest in December 2019.<sup>8</sup>

There is no domestic possibility for the victims' relatives to access justice, truth and reparation with regards to enforced disappearances, notably those which occurred in the 1980s in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Recommendation Status:

This recommendation has **NOT** been implemented.

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<sup>4</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Islamic Republic of Iran, March 2018, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G18/060/60/PDF/G1806060.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>5</sup> Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, September 2019, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G19/262/94/PDF/G1926294.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>6</sup> Joint Public NGOs statement, <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/MDE1358402017ENGLISH.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> See more : Amnesty International, [https://www.amnesty.lu/wp-content/uploads/webmigrationfiles/IRAN\\_BLOOD-SOAKED\\_1988\\_2018\\_EN.PDF](https://www.amnesty.lu/wp-content/uploads/webmigrationfiles/IRAN_BLOOD-SOAKED_1988_2018_EN.PDF)

<sup>8</sup> United for Iran, <https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/prisoner/3705/>