

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran A/HRC/28/70 para 91

Full recommendation:

[The Special Rapporteur] calls on the authorities to release all individuals identified by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention as being arbitrarily detained, as well as other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Assessment

Since 2016, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) found that there have been at least 38 cases of persons subject to arbitrary detention in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Despite these opinions, as of January 2021 many still remain in detention.¹ The individuals that the WGAD found to have been arbitrarily detained in the Islamic Republic of Iran include but are not limited to: Mr. Arash Sadeghi (Opinion no. 19/2018), Ms. Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee (Opinion no. 33/2019), Ms. Atena Daemi (Opinion no. 83/2018).

The WGAD “has repeatedly found a practice in the Islamic Republic of Iran of targeting foreign nationals for detention.”² Despite the Working Group’s opinions concluding that their detention is arbitrary, as of March 2021 foreign and dual nationals Mr. Siamak Namazi³ and Mr. Mohammad Bager Namazi⁴ (Opinion no. 49/2017)⁵ remain in detention. Ms. Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe⁶ (Opinion no. 28/2016)⁷ was released having completed her sentence but currently faces new charges.⁸ Mr. Ahmad Reza Djalali, whose detention was found to be arbitrary by the WGAD in 2017,⁹ faces imminent execution.¹⁰ Mr. Robert Levinson, whose detention was found to be arbitrary by the Working Group in 2016,¹¹ reportedly died in Iranian custody.¹² Other

¹ See more: United for Iran, <https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/prisoner/>

² Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Opinion No. 52/2018, para 82.

³ United For Iran, <https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/prisoner/2157/>

⁴ United For Iran, <https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/prisoner/2400/>

⁵ Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Opinion no. 49/2017, https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Detention/Opinions/Session79/A_HRC_WGAD_2017_49_EN.pdf

⁶ United For Iran, <https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/prisoner/2481/>

⁷ Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Opinion no. 28/2016, https://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/WGAD/2016/28

⁸ The Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2021/mar/07/nazanin-zaghari-ratcliffe-reportedly-freed-but-may-face-new-charges>

⁹ Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Opinion no. 92/2017, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Detention/Pages/Opinions80thSession.aspx>

¹⁰ United For Iran, <https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/prisoner/3126/>

¹¹ Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Opinion no. 50/2016, https://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/WGAD/2016/50

¹² United For Iran, <https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/prisoner/3488/>

foreign and dual nationals remain in detention in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including Mr. Morad Tahbaz¹³ and Mr. Kamran Ghaderi.¹⁴

Many political prisoners and prisoners of conscience to this day remain in detention in the Islamic Republic of Iran.^{15 16 17}

Recommendation Status:

This recommendation has **NOT** been implemented.

¹³ United For Iran, <https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/prisoner/4043/>

¹⁴ United For Iran, <https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/prisoner/2894/>

¹⁵ See more: United for Iran, <https://ipa.united4iran.org/en/prisoner/>

¹⁶ OHCHR News, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25803&LangID=E>

¹⁷ UN News, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/10/1074722>