

## Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions A/HRC/29/37/Add.5 para 41

### Full recommendation:

*The Special Rapporteur is grateful to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its responses concerning Mr. Arzhang Davoodi and Mrs. Yeganeh Salehi. He is following closely further developments on the cases mentioned in the communication. Therefore, the Special Rapporteur would appreciate receiving information on the proceedings against Mr. Arzhang Davoodi and Mr. Jason Rezaian, as well as additional details on the case of Mrs. Yeganeh Salehi, who according to the information provided by the Government was released on bail on 1 October 2014. The Special Rapporteur regrets that the Government did not provide information on the allegations regarding the detention of the other two journalists on the evening of 22 July 2014. He urges authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran that all proceedings fully comply with international law standards.*

### Assessment using Impact Iran human rights indicators<sup>1</sup>

According to information received by UN Special Procedures, Mr. Arzhang Davoodi was sentenced to death on the charge of *moharebeh* (“enmity against God”), reportedly based on his alleged membership and support of the banned group, People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), on 20 July 2014. Reports indicated that Mr. Davoodi was not provided with necessary guarantees of due process and the right to a fair trial. Mr. Davoodi has been in prison since 2003 based on a series of different charges. While in detention he has reportedly suffered ill-treatment and torture.<sup>2</sup> Following an appeal, the Supreme Court overturned the death sentence, and the case was sent to a court of first instance.<sup>3</sup> The Islamic Republic of Iran has not provided further details on the proceedings concerning Mr. Davoodi or whether they complied fully with international law standards.

According to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 22 July 2014, Mr. Jason Rezaian and his wife Ms. Yeganeh Salehi, both journalists, were arrested. Ms. Salehi was released on bail but circumstances of her arrest remain unclear. Mr. Rezaian remained detained on charges of espionage.<sup>4</sup> The Islamic Republic of Iran has not provided details of the proceedings concerning Mr. Rezaian and Ms. Salehi or whether they complied fully with

<sup>1</sup> CCPR.6.2.S.1; CCPR.9.1.S.1; CCPR.9.2.S.1  
CCPR.6.2.P.1; CCPR.9.2.P.1

<sup>2</sup> Special Procedures Communication, IRN 16/2014 ,  
<https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=15796>

<sup>3</sup> Reply of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UN Special Procedures Communication IRN 16/2014, January 2015,  
<https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadFile?gId=32249>

<sup>4</sup> Reply of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UN Special Procedures Communication IRN 16/2014, December 2014,  
<https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadFile?gId=32248>

international law standards. However, several NGOs reported that Mr. Rezaian's trial proceedings were in violation of international standards.<sup>5 6 7</sup> He was released in January 2016 as part of a prisoner swap process between the U.S. and Iranian Governments.<sup>8</sup>

In addition to Mr. Jason Rezaian, Ms. Yaganeh Salehi, two unknown journalists were also detained on 22 July 2014.<sup>9</sup> There is no readily available information that might indicate that proceedings for the cases of the unknown journalists complied with international standards. However, with the absence of further clarification from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, information indicates that the proceedings for the cases of Mr. Arzhang Davoodi, Mr. Jason Rezaian and Ms. Yeganeh Salehi have not complied with international standards. If the proceedings against these individuals did not comply with international standards, there is reason to believe proceedings concerning the two other unnamed journalists have also not complied with international standards.

Recommendation Status:

This recommendation has **NOT** been implemented.

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<sup>5</sup> Human Rights Watch, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/10/16/iran-vacate-conviction-washington-post-journalist>

<sup>6</sup> Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/MDE13/1522/2015/en/>

<sup>7</sup> The Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/12/jason-rezaian-convicted-iran-trial-washington-post>

<sup>8</sup> The Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/16/iran-releases-washington-post-journalist-jason-rezaian>

<sup>9</sup> Special Procedures Communication IRN 16/2014, <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=15796>