

Dear president of Republic of Austria, President Van der Bellen,

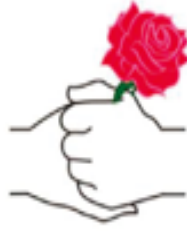
We have learned from the Iranian media that you have congratulated the new Iranian President on his election.

But as you know, there have been no free elections in Iran for the past 43 years, and the candidates are chosen by the Council of Guardians. In addition, it should be noted that Mr Raisi, nicknamed Executioner Ayatollah, is personally responsible for at least thousands of executions at the end of the 1980s. It is precisely for this reason that only a small number of the Iranians participated in the so called election at all.

Amnesty International's Secretary General Agnès Callamard said recently: "That Ebrahim Raisi has risen to the presidency instead of being investigated for the crimes against humanity, of murder, enforced disappearance and torture, is a grim reminder that impunity reigns supreme in Iran. In 2018, our organization documented how Ebrahim Raisi had been a member of the 'death commission' which forcibly disappeared and extrajudicially executed in secret thousands of political dissidents in Evin and Gohardasht prisons near Tehran in 1988. The circumstances surrounding the fate of the victims and the whereabouts of their bodies are, to this day, systematically concealed by the Iranian authorities, amounting to ongoing crimes against humanity. As Head of the Iranian Judiciary, Ebrahim Raisi has presided over a spiralling crackdown on human rights which has seen hundreds of peaceful dissidents, human rights defenders and members of persecuted minority groups arbitrarily detained."

Additionally, because of such crimes he was put on the US sanctions list in 2019 and also on the EU sanctions list.

Dear Mr. President, by doing so, you place Austria in the same rank as many undemocratic states that have congratulated him. Last but not least, we would



like to remind you that two Austrians have been held hostage by the Iranian government for years.

Dear Mr. President, please allow us to express our deepest dismay at this unexpected action, especially from your excellency as a notable humanist. Routine diplomatic communication can not rationalize friendly congratulations to a mass murderer as Mr. Raisi. Yours respectfully,

For: The Strategic Committee of The Social Democratic and Laïc Republicans of Iran
(National Cohesion)

Prof. Dr. Siroos Mirzaei

www.mirzaei.at

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