

Do Not Commemorate Human Rights Violator Ebrahim Raisi

Despite the fact that this letter was sent out for signature collection in less than 48 hours, more than 1,500 signatures have been gathered so far, including the initial names listed in the letter, and collecting of signatures is still ongoing.

Your Excellency, Mr. Dennis Francis, President of the UN General Assembly,

We, a collective of Iranian human rights advocates, including some former political prisoners, family members and friends of the victims who have witnessed or documented the atrocities committed by Ibrahim Raisi or under his command, are deeply concerned and profoundly indignant regarding the proposed commemoration for him.

As you might be aware, Ibrahim Raisi played a pivotal role in the execution of thousands of political prisoners over decades, as well as the brutal suppression of protests, women's movements, freedom advocates, and minorities in Iran.

His tenure was marked by egregious human rights violations, including:

1. Being a key member of the "Death Committees," which signed and ordered the mass execution of over 4,500 political prisoners in less than two months in 1988.
(<https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/200000/mde130211990en.pdf>) Report of Amnesty
([Ministers of Murder: Iran's New Security Cabinet \(November 2005\)](#) Report of Human Rights Watch
2. His involvement in the shooting down of Flight PS752 in 2020 as a member of the "National Security Council of Iran"
3. The arrest and imprisonment of political and social activists during his time as Head of the Judiciary, which saw an unprecedented increase.
4. The mass suppression of the Baha'i community in Iran.
5. An increase in executions during his presidency, with over 800 executions signed in 2023 alone.
6. The repression of peaceful protestors during the Woman, Life, Freedom Movement.

Raisi has not denied his actions. "If a judge or prosecutor has defended the security of the people, he should be praised," he told reporters about the massacre at his first press conference as president-elect on June 21, 2021. The United Nations called for an investigation into Raisi's role shortly after his election. "I think it is time and it's very important now that Mr. Raisi is the president -elect we start investigating what happened in 1988 and the role of individuals," Javaid Rehman, the U.N. investigator on human rights in Iran, said on June 29. In March 2019, the United States condemned Raisi's appointment as judiciary chief and highlighted his role in the Tehran Death Committee. The U. S. Treasury Department also

noted Raisi's involvement in the Death Committee and the crackdown on protesters after the disputed 2009 presidential election.

Additionally, the UN Fact-Finding Committee has classified the activities of Islamic Regime of Iran during the Woman, Life, Freedom Movement as "crimes against humanity." These actions reflect a history of extreme violence and repression by him that should not be commemorated.

Raisi's rise to power is widely regarded as the result of a manipulated and illegitimate election, designed to ensure his loyalty to the Supreme Leader. It is important to note that Raisi did not hold the highest political rank in Islamic Regime of Iran; that position belongs to the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, which further questions the merit of his commemoration.

Memorializing such an individual contradicts the very principles of justice and human rights that the United Nations stands for. Honoring his legacy would be a disservice to the countless victims of his regime and an insult to freedom fighters and those family members of the victims seeking justice both in Iran and around the world.

We strongly encourage all members of the United Nations to read the special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran at the link below:

[Letter by U.N. Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance to the Iranian government \(September 2020\)](#)

We urge the United Nations to reconsider any plans to memorialize Ibrahim Raisi and not to ignore the findings of respected human rights organizations and its own Fact-Finding Committee. Doing so would lend unwarranted legitimacy to his actions and undermine the struggles of those who have suffered under his oppressive rule.

The United Nations, as a guardian of global human rights, should not endorse or celebrate a figure such as Ibrahim Raisi whose legacy is rooted in brutality and injustice. We urge you to stand in solidarity with the victims of Raisi and to uphold the principles of justice and human dignity by refraining from honoring him. Your decision in this matter will significantly impact the credibility of the UN's commitment to human rights.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue.

Sincerely,

Initial Signatures:

Afary, Janet; Professor of History, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA.

Afary, Frieda; Iranian American Librarian and Author

Afary, Mona; Psychologist, Oakland, CA

Afshari, Ali; Political Activist, USA

Afshari, Reza; Professor Emeritus of History, Pace University, New York.

Ahari, Maryam; MD and Human/Women's Rights Activist.

Alamdari, Kazem; Retired Faculty of Sociology, California State University, Northridge.

Alijani, Reza; Political Activist, France.

Alizadeh, Homayoun; Former senior official of the Office of the UN-High Commissioner for Human Rights in Africa & Asia

Amanat, Abbas; Professor of History, Yale University.

Amanat, Mehrdad, Writer and Independent Scholar, CA, USA.

Amini, Asieh, Poet and Human/Women's Rights Activist, Belgium.

Amani, Elahe; Human/Women's rights Activist, USA

Amini, Mehdi; Human and Civil Rights Activist.

Ardalan, Parvin; Feminist Activist and Writer.

Aslani, Mehdi; Writer and former Political Prisoner of the 1980s.

Atabaki, Touraj; Research Professor of Social History, The Netherlands Royal Academy of Arts & Sciences.

Azimi, Farzaneh; Political Activist, Austria.

Azizi, Alireza; Human Rights Activist, CA, USA.

Balouch, Fariba; Human/Women's Rights Activist.

Banuazizi, Ali; Research Professor, Boston College, USA.

Bayat, Behrooz; Physicist, and Political and Human Rights Activist.

Bazrpour, Farzaneh; Journalist, USA

Broumand, Ladan; Historian, Sociologist, Human Rights Defender, USA.

Broumand, Roya; The Executive Director of the Abdorrahman Boroumand Foundation.

Darvishpour, Mehrdad; Associate Professor of Sociology, Mälardalens University, Sweden.

Dehghan, Saeid; Human Rights Lawyer and Director of Parsi Law Consultancy, Canada

Ebadi, Shirin; Attorney in law and Nobel Peace Laureate, 2003.

Fallah, Soraya; Vice President of United Nations Association of USA, SFV Chapter.

Farhang, Mansour; Faculty Emeritus, Bennington College, USA.

Farmand, Hamed; Human/Children Rights Researcher & Activist.

Farnoody, Nehzat, Ph.D.; Psychotherapist, USA.

Fathi, Massoud; Political Activist and Journalist, Austria.

Forouhar, Parastoo, Artist & Human rights activist.

Ghahraman, Saghi; Poet and Head of the Iranian Queer Organization.

Gohari Lackner, Jaleh; MD and Human/Women's Rights Activist, Austria.

Hariri, Mehrdad; President, Canadian Science Policy Centre.

Hashemi, Maryam; Vienna, Austria.

Herischi, Ali; Human Rights Lawyer, Canada.

Hoodfar, Homa; Professor of Anthropology, Emerita, Concordia University, Montreal.

Hosseinzadeh, Fatemeh, Educator.

Joudaki, Arash; Researcher and Doctorate in Philosophy.

Kalantari, Hassan; Civil Rights Activist, CA, USA.

Kahnemuyipour, Arsalan; Professor and Chair, Department of Language Studies, University of Toronto Mississauga.

Kar, Mehrangiz; Attorney, Writer and Human Rights Activist.

Kasmaii, Sorour, Writer and Human Rights activists.

Khatam, Azam; Ph.D., Instructor at York University, Toronto.

Khosrokhavar, Farhad; Retired Professor at School for Advanced Studies, Paris.

Kian, Azadeh; Professor, University of Paris 7, France.

Mahmoudi, Homa; Ph.D. Psycholtherapist, USA.

Malek, Parvin; Human/Women's Rights Activist.

Meymandi Nejad, Sharmin; Founder of the Society of Students against Poverty.

Mir-Hosseini, Ziba, Ph.D., Academic and Writer, UK.

Mirzaei, Siroos, MD, Professoor of Nuclear Medicine , Human Rights defender, Austria.

Moaddel, Mansoor; Professor of Sociology, University of Maryland, USA.

Moghadam, Rezvan,; Member of the Plaintiff Families of the 1988 mass Executions.

Moghissi, Haideh; York University, Canada.

Mohammadi, Mahnaz; Filmmaker, Iran

Mojab, Shahrzad; Professor of Women and Gender Studies, University of Toronto, Canada.

Moridi, Reza; PhD, Former Parliamentarian and Minister, Senior Fellow, Massey College, University of Toronto, Canada.

Nafisy, Majid; Ph.D., Poet and Writer.

Nayeb-Hashemi; Hassan, Dr/MD and Human Rights Defender, Austria.

Nazarahari,Shiva; Journalist & Women's Rights Activist

Nikfar, Mohammad Reza, Ph.D., Philosopher, Netherlands.

Nooriala, Partow; Poet and Writer, CA, USA

Nooriala, Esmail; Dr. Spokesperson of Iranian Secular Democracy Movement.

Parsa, Koroush; Ph.D., Managing Director, Parsa Wireless Communication, LLC, USA.

Pirzadeh, Bijan; Human/Civil Rights Activist.

Rahimi, Zahra; Director of the Society Against Poverty.

Rahmani, Taghi, Political Activist, Paris

Rahnema, Saeed; York University, Canada.

Roosta, Taraneh; Human/Women's rights activist

Sarshar, Homa; Journalist and Human Rights Activist, USA.

Shams, Fatemeh; Associate Professor of Persian Literature, University of Pennsylvania.

Shirinsokhan, Maryam; Women's rights Activists, BoD WLF Munich

Shojaee, Mansoureh; Women's rights Activist & Writer

Soltani, Amir; writer and human rights defender US

Tohidi, Nayereh; Professor Emeritus, California State University, Northridge, USA

Vadihi, Shiva; Academic & Women's Rights Activist.

Zamani, Majid; Entrepreneur and Political Activist, Iran.

Zamini, Sholeh; Women's Rights Defender, Canada.

Zandian, Mandana; Writer, poet and Physician, CA, USA

Groups and Associations:

Alliance for Human Rights and Democracy in Iran

Alliance path for Iran (API)

Association for Justices Seeking Iranian Mother's

AUSIRAN (Australian United Solidarity for Iran)

Be Our Voice RN Iran

Campaign to Free Political Prisoners in Iran (CFPPI)

Diverse Secular democratic children Educational system

CIDHR (Canadian Iranian Doctors for Human Rights)

HÁWAR.help Association

International Relations Working Group, Hamgami Coalition for Secular Democratic Republic in Iran

International Secular Democratic Organization (ISDO)

Iran Lovers, None profit organization

Iranian Medical Society for Human Rights and Democracy Berlin Med

Iranian Scholars for Liberty

Iranian Women's Institute for Life and Liberty (IWILL)

Iranian Circle of Women for International Networking (ICWIN)

Iranian Youth circle

Medical Professionals for Human Rights in Iran, Austria

Perth 4 Iran

Philly Iranians (501.c.3)

PIROOZ Foundation

Progressives for Iranian Democracy (PFID)

Solidarity with Iranian Revolution. Frankfurt/ Mainz/ Wiesbaden

Stop "Honor" Killings Campaign: Stop Honor Killing (stophonorkillings.org)

The Association of Families of Flight PS752 Victims

Toomaj Salehi Foundation

UNIONE ATTIVISTI IRANIANI IN ITALIA

Union for Secular Republic and Human Rights in Iran

University of Toronto Students for a Free Iran (UTSFI)

Voices of Women for Change Network, INC

Woman Life Freedom Organization (Ottawa)

Woman* Life Freedom Munich Association

Woman, Life, Freedom - Nürnberg & Erlangen e.V.