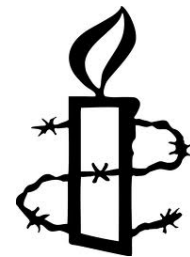


WORLDWIDE APPEALS — March 2021

An appeal from you to the authorities can help the victims of human rights violations. You can help free a prisoner of conscience or stop torture. Your message can bring liberty to a victim of disappearance. You may prevent an execution. The victims are many, the violators wide ranging. Every appeal counts.



BRITISH-IRANIAN LABOUR ACTIVIST DETAINED

Mehran Raouf, a British-Iranian national and a labour rights activist, is being arbitrarily detained in Tehran's Evin prison. Revolutionary Guards agents arrested him on 16 October 2020. He is being held in prolonged solitary confinement, in violation of the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment. He is a prisoner of conscience and must be immediately and unconditionally released.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

*Head of judiciary, Ebrahim Raisi
c/o Embassy of Iran to the European Union
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt No. 15,
1050 Bruxelles, Belgium*

Dear Mr Raisi,

*I am writing to express serious concern at the continued arbitrary detention of labour rights activist **Mehran Raouf**, 64, in Section 2A of Evin prison since his arrest on 16 October 2020. Agents from the intelligence unit of the Revolutionary Guards raided his home in Tehran, searched it and confiscated personal items including his computer. He was subjected to incommunicado detention for a month following his arrest, after which he was allowed to make a brief telephone call to a distant relative in Iran. He has been denied calls with his immediate family, all of whom live outside Iran, and the right to access legal counsel, even from the judiciary-approved lawyers that his family have retained on his behalf. He has been held in prolonged solitary confinement for months. Amnesty International fears that he is at serious risk of further torture and other human rights violations, especially given the Revolutionary Guards' pattern of subjecting detainees to torture to extract forced "confessions" which are later used to issue convictions in unfair trials.*

Mehran Raouf is a dual British and Iranian national and lives between Iran and the UK. Amnesty International understands that his friends have tried to retain an independent lawyer of his choice on his behalf, but the authorities have refused to grant the lawyer access to his case file until trial. Mehran Raouf was detained around the same time as several other labour rights activists across the country in October 2020 in a coordinated crackdown to quash advocacy on workers' rights. One of those arrested has since been sentenced to 16 years in prison on spurious national security charges, leading to fears of long sentences against them all. Amnesty International considers Mehran Raouf a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for peacefully advocating for workers' rights in Iran and supporting trade unions.

Mehran Raouf is among dozens of dual nationals arrested and detained in Iran in recent years. The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran has expressed concern at the continued arbitrary detention of dual nationals and has said that the authorities have subjected them to "sham trials", convicted them based on "fabricated evidence or...no evidence at all" and "attempted to use them as diplomatic leverage." He noted that several relatives of detained dual nationals consider the detention of their loved ones to be "hostage-taking".

I ask you to immediately and unconditionally release Mehran Raouf, as he is a prisoner of conscience detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights through his labour rights activism. Pending his release, I ask you to ensure that he has regular access to his family outside Iran, a lawyer of his choosing and any health care he needs. I urge you to immediately end his prolonged solitary confinement and protect him from further torture and other ill-treatment, and ensure that he is allowed access to consular assistance from the United Kingdom authorities.

Yours sincerely,

Amnesty International–Nobel Peace Prize 1977 UN Human Rights Prize 1978

For more information about the Salisbury branch
please call Tony Miller 01722 322791 - www.salisburyai.com