



Canadian Friends of a Democratic Iran
Amis Canadiens d'un Iran Démocratique

August 5, 2020
URGENT

Canadian Friends of a Democratic Iran strongly condemns the execution of political prisoner Mostafa Salehi

This morning, the clerical regime executed political prisoner Mostafa Salehi, 30, a detainee in the uprising of January 2018 that spread across the country.

Canadian Friends of a Democratic Iran strongly condemns this execution. The regime used torture and pressure to force Mr. Salehi to confess the killing of an IRGC agent, for which there was not a shred of other evidence. He was denied access to lawyer and his execution follows the pattern of similar past disappearances by the judiciary headed by Ibrahim Raeisi, a member of the “death committees” that perpetrated the mass execution of political prisoners in 1988.

Iran remains the number one executioner per capita in the world. Arbitrary arrests, forced disappearances, torture and inhumane and degrading punishments are rampant in Iran. As a non-partisan NGO, we have consistently demanded accountability of the Iran’s leaders in the mass execution of political prisoners in 1988. The Canadian House of Commons unanimously passed a motion in June 2013 terming the massacre of political prisoners in 1988 a crime against humanity.

We urge the United Nations to censor the Iranian regime for this arbitrary killing and emphasize that failure to act will give the Iran’s leaders a green light to go after other uprisings’ detainees. To prevent further crimes, the United Nations must send an independent fact finding delegation to visit Iranian prisons and to talk to prisoners. The impunity over the mass murders of 1988 is what drives the perpetrators of that crime to continue their inhuman practices of eliminating dissent.

As crimes against humanity do not have any statutes of limitation, we urge the Canadian government to hold the Iranian regime leaders accountable for their continued crimes and to refer them to the relevant international tribunals.

If the international community had not turned a blind eye on the crimes of the Iranian regime, Iran would not have dared to become the number one executioner (per capita) in the world.

We demand action to save the lives of remaining political prisoners. It is very much fitting that in the unanimous motion of the Canadian parliament, September 1st has been designated as the day of solidarity with Iranian political prisoners. In this solidarity, western democracies have a duty to name and shame the top perpetrators.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Kilgour". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Hon. David Kilgour, J.D.,
Co-Chair.