

Barcelona, 5 September 2023



## **Denouncement of Iran's Oppressive Judiciary and Protection of Dissidents' Rights in Europe**

We are deeply concerned about the recent actions of Tehran's Criminal Court, which issued a public announcement on 29 July 2023, targeting 104 individuals associated with the opposition People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI or MEK). This announcement called on these individuals, who have been living outside Iran for over four decades, to appoint legal representation as they have been "charged."

The Iranian regime's history of arbitrary judgments, executions, and denial of due process amplifies our alarm in response to this announcement. Iranian officials have previously referred to all PMOI affiliates as enemies of God, making them subject to execution. Human rights organizations have documented the execution of tens of thousands of MEK members and supporters in Iran over the past four decades on baseless charges such as Moharebeh.

Of particular concern is the well-documented 1988 fatwa issued by Iran's Supreme Leader, calling for the execution of all political prisoners who remained loyal to the PMOI. Ebrahim Raisi, the current President of Iran, played a key role as a member of Tehran's "death commission" responsible for executing several thousand prisoners during the 1988 massacre.

It is evident that the Iranian judiciary intends to exploit this legal manoeuvre to further repress dissent within Iran and extend its crackdown on opponents beyond its borders. State-controlled media has revealed the regime's objective of using INTERPOL to extradite opposition members residing outside Iran. Previous attempts by Iranian regime affiliates to file complaints against opposition members in France were dismissed after years of investigations due to a lack of evidence.

Iran's disregard for international law was evident during the trial of one of its serving diplomats in Belgium, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison for attempting to detonate a bomb at the NCRI opposition rally near Paris in June 2018, using a diplomatic pouch.

Considering these events, particularly the raid by Albanian police at Ashraf-3 on June 20, 2023, based on allegations provided by the Iranian regime, we express deep concern. Ashraf-3 is home to thousands of MEK members who are currently refugees in Albania.



As professionals in the field of law, we strongly condemn the Iranian regime's disregard for international laws and human rights. Therefore, we urge democratic countries in Europe and elsewhere to:

1. Publicly denounce the repressive actions of the Iranian regime disguised as judicial measures against MEK members. Ensure that Iranian dissidents enjoy their fundamental human rights in Europe and other parts of the world.
2. Take decisive action to hold Iranian officials accountable for their involvement in crimes against humanity, particularly the 1988 massacre of 30,000 political prisoners, most of whom were MEK members and sympathizers.
3. Safeguard the fundamental human and political rights of MEK refugees in Ashraf-3, Albania, in accordance with the provisions outlined in international conventions and laws, including the 1951 Geneva Convention, the European Convention on Human Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. This includes guaranteeing their freedom of speech and assembly, as emphasized by the Prime Minister of Albania in a 2016 letter to a Vice President of the European Parliament. These measures will also contribute to Albania's integration into the European Union.

These actions are necessary to uphold our shared values of justice, human rights, and the rule of law.

On behalf of the FBE Human Rights Commission

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