



President Masoud Pezeshkian
Islamic Republic of Iran

Sent by email

CC: Iranian Embassy

Datum

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Ons Kenmerk

25-010 PB/TP/ae

Betreft / Onderwerp

Execution sentence for Pakhshan Azizi

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Your excellency,

On behalf of the Dutch National Trade Union (FNV), the largest trade union in the Netherlands, I would like to express my concern regarding the ongoing violation of human and labor rights in Iran.

This letter addresses a very recent case. The Supreme Court of the Islamic Republic of Iran has upheld the execution sentence for Pakhshan Azizi, a Kurdish labor rights activist and political prisoner currently held in Evin Prison. We consider the issuance and confirmation of this sentence to be part of the Islamic Republic's strategy to instill fear following the nationwide "Woman, Life, Freedom" protests. We therefore call on your government to take immediate action and demand the cancellation of Pakhshan Azizi's sentence.

Pakhshan Azizi, a native of Mahabad, was arrested in Tehran on August 4, 2023. After spending approximately four months in solitary confinement at the Intelligence Ministry's detention center (Ward 209 of Evin Prison), she was transferred to the women's ward of Evin Prison.

Security officials accused her of belonging to groups engaged in armed activities against the Islamic Republic. However, her lawyer has stated that her work as a human and trade union rights activist in northern Syria—particularly in refugee camps in Sinjar and other camps for those displaced by ISIS—was peaceful and focused entirely on relief efforts, with no political motives.

The conviction of Ms. Azizi is part of a structural pattern in Iran. Since the beginning of 2024, the Islamic Republic has executed at least 31 women—the highest annual number since the Iran Human Rights Organisation (IHRNGO) began its reports in 2008.

Ms. Azizi's lawyer has emphasized that there are numerous flaws in the case—such as investigative deficiencies and the lack of sufficient evidence linking Pakhshan Azizi to the charges—that have been overlooked.

We therefore urge you to ensure that:

- Pakhshan Azizi's death sentence is overturned, and she is released immediately and unconditionally, as her activities were peaceful and focused entirely on humanitarian relief efforts, devoid of any political motives.
- Pending her release, she is protected from further torture and other ill-treatment.
- The rights of workers to form and join independent trade unions of their choice are upheld, in accordance with the ILO core conventions and Iran's obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Petra Bolster', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Petra Bolster
Member of the National Board and International Secretary
FNV, Netherlands