

Head of Judiciary
Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei
c/o Embassy of Iran to the European Union
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt 15
1050 Brüssel
BELGIEN

Kopie an

Botschaft der Islamischen Republik Iran
S. E. Herrn Mahmoud Farazandeh
Podbielskiallee 67
14195 Berlin
Fax: 030 83 222 91 33
E-Mail: info@iranbotschaft.de

Sehr geehrter Herr Ejei,

ich wende mich an Sie, um Sie zu bitten, Zahra Sedighi-Hamadani umgehend und bedingungslos freizulassen, da sie nur aufgrund ihrer tatsächlichen oder vermeintlichen sexuellen Orientierung und/oder ihrer Geschlechtsidentität, sowie wegen der friedlichen Ausübung ihrer Menschenrechte, darunter ihrer Rechte auf Privatsphäre, auf Meinungs- und Vereinigungsfreiheit, inhaftiert ist.

Sorgen Sie bitte bis zu ihrer Freilassung dafür, dass sie regelmäßigen Zugang zu einem Rechtsbeistand ihrer Wahl und zu ihren Familienangehörigen erhält. Bitte sorgen Sie außerdem dafür, dass ihre Vorwürfe bezüglich des Verschwindenlassens, der Folter und anderer Misshandlungen untersucht und die Verantwortlichen in einem fairen Gerichtsverfahren zur Rechenschaft gezogen werden.

Ich bitte Sie zudem dringend darum, Gesetze aufzuheben, die einvernehmliche sexuelle Beziehungen zwischen Personen des gleichen Geschlechts kriminalisieren, und die Kleidung und andere Ausdrucksformen der Geschlechtlichkeit verbieten, die von strikten binären Gendernormen abweichen. Ich fordere Sie außerdem auf, Gesetze zu verabschieden, die dem Schutz von Menschen der LGBTI-Community vor Diskriminierung, Gewalt und anderen Menschenrechtsverletzungen dienen.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

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Dear Mr Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei,

The Iranian gender nonconforming human rights defender Zahra Sedighi-Hamadani, known as Sareh, has been arbitrarily detained in Urumieh, West Azerbaijan province, since 27 October 2021 due to her real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity as well as her social media posts and statements in defence of LGBTI rights. Authorities have ill-treated her and threatened to convict her of "spreading corruption on earth", which carries the death penalty.

The Revolutionary Guards arrested her on 27 October 2021 near the Iranian border with Turkey while she was attempting to irregularly enter Turkey to seek international protection. Following her arrest, she was forcibly disappeared for 53 days. It subsequently transpired that the Revolutionary Guards held her in solitary confinement in a detention centre in Urumieh. During this period, she says a Revolutionary Guard agent subjected her to intense interrogations accompanied by verbal abuse and insults directed at her identity and appearance and threatened to execute or otherwise harm her and take away the custody of her two young children. These acts violate the absolute prohibition on torture and other ill-treatment.

I ask you to immediately and unconditionally release Zahra Sedighi-Hamadani as she is detained solely based on discriminatory reasons related to her real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity and for the peaceful exercise of her human rights including rights to privacy and freedom of expression and association. Pending her release, ensure that she is given regular access to a lawyer of her choosing and family and that the allegations involving her subjection to enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment are investigated and those responsible are held to account in fair trials. I further urge you to repeal laws which criminalize consensual same-sex sexual conduct and which ban clothing and other forms of gender expression that do not conform to strict binary gender "norms", and to adopt legislation to protect LGBTI people from discrimination, violence and other human rights violations.

Yours sincerely,