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Dear Mr Ebrahim Raisi,

I am writing, on the occasion of the 2020 World Day Against the Death Penalty, to draw your attention to the case of **Barzan Nasrollahzadeh**, who was sentenced to death following a grossly unfair trial and for a crime that took place when he was under 18 years old. Barzan Nasrollahzadeh was denied access to a lawyer during his entire pre-trial detention and was only allowed to meet a lawyer for the first time at his trial, three years after arrest. He was just 17 years old at the time of the crime.



The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, both of which Iran is a party, strictly prohibit the imposition of death sentences for crimes committed by persons below 18 years of age. Therefore, Barzan Nasrollahzadeh should not have been sentenced to death.

Barzan Nasrollahzadeh is one of scores of individuals who were sentenced to death in Iran for crimes that occurred when they were below the age of 18, in violation of international human rights law.

I therefore urge you to:

- Immediately halt any plans to execute Barzan Nasrollahzadeh, ensure that his conviction and sentence are quashed, and that he is granted a fair retrial in accordance with the principles of juvenile justice, without resort to the death penalty and excluding statements obtained through torture or other ill-treatment or without the presence of a lawyer;
- Conduct an independent, impartial and transparent investigation into his allegations of torture and other ill-treatment and bring those responsible to justice;
- Immediately establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty for all crimes;
- Immediately stop the use of the death penalty against people below 18 years of age at the time of the crime;
- Take steps to ensure a legislative effort is initiated to amend Article 91 of the 2013 Islamic Penal Code to completely abolish, without any discretion by the courts or other exceptions, the use of the death penalty for crimes committed by people below the age of 18, in line with Iran's obligations under international law;
- Ensure all people facing the death penalty in Iran have access to an independent lawyer of their own choosing from the time of arrest.

Yours sincerely

Copy to:

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