



5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## **Urgent Action:**

### **Open letter to Josep Borrell Fontelles - Request Iranian Regime for immediate release of Gonabadi Sufi Mr Behnam Mahjoubi from Iran's prison**

Unfortunately, there seems to be no end to the Iranian regime's stream of human rights violations. As the Regime's officials, continue to imprison, torture and execute dissidents, especially religious minority groups like the Gonabadi Sufis, many of whom are still in prison, while numerous others have been forcefully exiled to remote areas of Iran without a court order. Over 40-years of severe crackdown on Gonabadi Sufis in Iran reached its peak in 2018, during which the leader of eight million Sufis, Dr. Noor Ali Tabandeh was placed under house arrest at the age of 90, and was later assassinated on 24th December of 2019.

Among the cases of crackdown of Gonabadi Sufis is the case of Mr. Behnam Mahjoubi, who was arrested and imprisoned by the government forces simply because he protested the murder of Dr. Noor Ali Tabandeh, at the hands of the regime.

Mr Mahjoubi's physical and mental condition is of serious concern. As according to an audio file released by him, prison officials have transferred him from prison to a psychiatric hospital, in order to increase pressure on him where they have forced other patients to urinate on him, as well as forced him to take medications with the aim of further impairing his health and preventing him from pursuing his legal rights.

Mr. Mahjoubi's family has also come under severe security pressure, where it has been reported that even his mother's pension has been cut as a result of speaking out against her son's imprisonment.

Mr. Behnam Mahjoubi, since his arrest due to severe torture and forced medications given to him, has constantly suffered from nervous attacks to such a degree that one side of his body has become paralysed.

Also, he is unable to speak due to being injected with chemicals into his mouth. Recently Mr. Mahjoubi has started having seizures in his sleep and has also collapsed on a number of occasions, as a result of which his two fingers have broken. Yet, despite all of this, the authorities refused to take him to the Medical Centre for three days. At the Medical Centre, the prison doctor simply stopped his medication and instead gave him seventeen sleeping pills per day.



It should be noted that according to the latest reports received, the official governmental medical examiner has even issued a certificate stating that Mr. Mahjoubi is unfit to be in prison, and requested his immediate release from the prison, all of which have been ignored by the Judiciary Department which opposes his release.

Thus, we are extremely concerned for the life of Mr Mahjoubi and request for his immediate and unconditional release from the prison.

We also call on all international organisations to condemn all death sentences issued by the Iranian regime, such as those issued to journalists, ethnic and religious minorities, prisoners of conscience (Christians, Sunnis, Sufis, Baha'is, Jews), and human rights activist, and to use all available means to put pressure on Iranian authorities to overturn these types of inhumane sentences.

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