



Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles  
High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
B-1049, Brussels

Brussels, 31 March 2023

Dear Mr. Borrell,

At least 14 citizens of the European Union are currently detained arbitrarily in Iran. Many have been held in solitary confinement for extended periods of time, in inhumane conditions and without a fair trial. Jamshid Sharmahd of Germany and Ahmadreza Djalali of Sweden have been sentenced to death and **could be executed at any moment**.

So far, attempts by member states to secure the release of their respective citizens imprisoned in Iran have been unsuccessful.

In view of the values of the European Union enshrined in the Treaty and the conclusions of the Council of the EU of 12 December 2022 which stated that “the European Union strongly rejects Iran’s practice of arbitrary detention of foreign citizens, including dual nationals, and calls upon Iran to end the distressing practice of detaining innocent foreign civilians with a view to making political gains”, we wanted to ask you the following questions:

1. What have you and the EEAS done to secure the release of the EU citizens detained in Iran?
2. Have you consulted with the families of the prisoners concerned?
3. Is the European Union willing to take further restrictive measures vis-à-vis Iran, including economic sanctions similar to those the EU adopted against Russia?
4. In light of the role of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in the violent crackdown on protests, the arrest of EU citizens and international terrorist activities, will the Council consider including the IRGC in its list of terrorist organisations?

We would be most grateful if you could share your answers with us at your earliest convenience.