

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 3, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio:

We write to express our deep concern over the escalating execution of political prisoners by the Iranian regime, a grave violation of fundamental human rights and international legal standards. These executions violate Iran's obligations under international human rights law and demand urgent attention and action.

Since the onset of the February 28, 2026 conflict with the United States, the Iranian regime has sharply increased executions, arbitrary arrests, expedited trials lacking due process, and lengthy prison sentences. Although these abuses reflect a long-standing pattern of systematic human rights violations and illegitimate judicial proceedings, the scale and escalation are causes for great concern.

In recent months, the regime has expanded use of the death penalty against any perceived opponents. Human rights organizations, along with United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteurs and other international monitors, report that protesters, critics, journalists, lawyers, and ethnic and religious minorities are being targeted. While exact numbers are difficult to obtain, reporting as of September 1, 2026 from human rights monitors claim over 900 executions, and that number continues to rise. These executions include nine members of the Iranian opposition party, the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (MEK), and members of minority communities such as Kurds and Baluchis. Vahid Baniamerian, a 32-year-old political prisoner with a Master of Business Administration who taught physics, was executed secretly for association with the MEK after being denied the minimum standards of due process and the right to proper defense.

In less than four months, at least 20 political prisoners detained during the January 2026 protests have been executed after summary proceedings lacking due process or transparency. Many were very young, including 18-year-old musician Amirhossein Hatami and 19-year-old wrestling champion Saleh Mohammadi. Saleh was hanged in a public square in Qom after being convicted of murder during protests. He was interrogated without the presence of an attorney and coerced into confessing to a crime he later denied having committed. The court did not allow him to use a lawyer of his choice and refused to hear witnesses who could testify in his favor. Many others were reportedly subjected to forced confessions obtained through torture, a tactic for which Iran has widely been condemned by international human rights bodies.

The regime also imposed nationwide internet shutdowns to conceal the rising number of executions and prevent communication among citizens. These blackouts severely impeded the

Iranian people's right to freedom of expression and the ability to document human rights abuses. While we are pleased to see internet services restored, we urge the United States to help prevent future blackouts by facilitating internet access and cell connectivity for the Iranian people and support secure communication tools for civil society.

We respectfully call on the U.S. Department of State to take decisive action, including:

- 1) Publicly condemn these executions at the highest levels;
- 2) Ensure human rights considerations are included in any negotiations with Iran;
- 3) Coordinate with allies to pursue accountability mechanisms, including sustained multilateral engagement with UN fact-finding missions and Special Rapporteurs; and
- 4) Impose targeted sanctions on officials responsible for these abuses.

The United States has long stood for the defense of human rights and the protection of those who seek freedom and democracy. At this critical moment, clear and principled leadership is essential to prevent further loss of life and to hold the Iranian regime accountable. Upholding these values is consistent with longstanding U.S. commitments to defend human dignity, stability, and the rights of those whose voices have been silenced.

Sincerely,



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Randy Fine
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber, Sr.
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



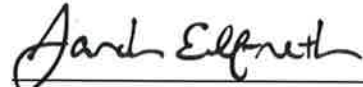
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Member of Congress



Rich McCormick, MD, MBA
Member of Congress



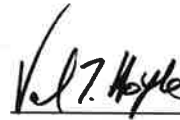
Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



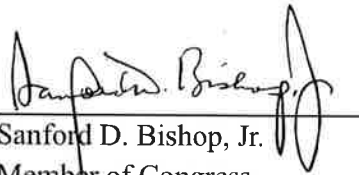
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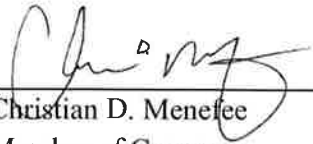
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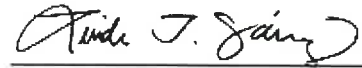
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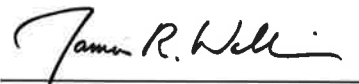
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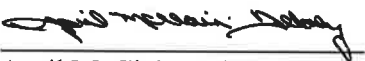
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