



Date: _____

H.E. Majid Takht Ravanchi
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr Ravanchi,

I am writing about the distressing spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Iran's prisons. I urge you to release all prisoners of conscience who remain jailed, including human rights defenders, peaceful protesters and others detained solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Some of the prisoners have been systematically denied adequate medical care, which could leave them more vulnerable to the effects of the virus if they contracted it. Amnesty International has documented the denial of adequate medical care as a punitive measure against prisoners of conscience.

More generally, I am also concerned about the health of all prisoners in Iran. Amnesty International reported that it received documents proving that the Iranian government has ignored repeated pleas by senior officials responsible for managing Iran's prisons for additional resources to control the spread of COVID-19 and treat infected prisoners. Amnesty International has also received distressing reports of prisoners displaying COVID-19 symptoms being neglected for days, which puts at risk everyone who shares wards with them.

Many prisoners across the country have pleaded with officials to address overcrowded, shortage of sanitising products and soap and lack of systematic testing for COVID-19 that put them at great risk of COVID-19 infections.

I also urge you to consider releasing other prisoners – especially pre-trial detainees and those who may be more at risk from the virus – and take necessary measures to protect the health of all prisoners, including equal access to testing. The Iranian authorities must stop denying the health crisis in Iran's prisons and take urgent steps to protect prisoners' health and lives.

Yours sincerely,

Address: _____